



Junblatt: Civil war fruitless

MUKHTARAH, Lebanon (R) — Druze leader Walid Junblatt said Tuesday Lebanon's 15 years of civil war were in vain and called for a permanent end to the bloodletting. "I think after all if we look at the results, we are all losers in this damned civil war," Junblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), told a news conference at the village of Mukhtarah, 30 kilometres southeast of Beirut. "It's time to stop the fighting. We have not gained anything," added Junblatt, also the minister of public works. Fragile peace hovers over a militia-free "greater Beirut," which has been patrolled by 16,000 army troops for a week after the withdrawal of all nine major militias from the capital. Asked whether the war was ended, Junblatt said: "I hope so, we are not fond of continuing the war in Lebanon." Junblatt, whose 10,000-strong PSP militia has pulled out of the capital and its suburbs, declined to comment on plans by President Elias Hrawi's government to disband the militias. The 41-year-old PSP leader expressed willingness to talk to other militias, including its long-standing rival, the hardline Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

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Prince Hassan, Soviet envoy discuss Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received in his office at the Royal Court Boris Piatishvili, member of the Consultative Committee at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. Prince Hassan and Piatishvili reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf region and initiatives to solve the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework and in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy. Prince Hassan briefed the guest on his views on ways to solve problems in the region, particularly the Palestine question. Piatishvili briefed the Crown Prince on the Soviet stand on Middle East issues and changes in the Soviet foreign policy. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

France to send more troops to Gulf

PARIS (AP) — France plans to send nearly 1,000 more soldiers to Saudi Arabia by Jan. 15, boosting its total deployment there to about 10,000 men, officials said Tuesday. France, which currently has 6,250 troops in Saudi Arabia, is expected to reinforce them with an artillery regiment, a tank regiment and a combat helicopter regiment.

U.S. legislator ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens, a Democrat from Utah, has concluded a visit to Jordan and left for home. During the visit, he was received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The latest developments in the region with particular attention to the Gulf crisis and the Palestine problem were the focus of the meetings. Prince Hassan briefed Owens on his views on resolving problems of the region in accordance with international legitimacy. Prince Hassan and Owens also reviewed U.S.-Jordanian relations at the meeting, which was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison.

German deputy arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, a member of the German parliament, is due here Wednesday for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Wischnewski will also leave for Baghdad on Dec. 14. He is expected to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. Wischnewski, a Social Democrat, is chairman of the Near East Committee of Socialist International.

Iran, Sudan urge regional solution

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Sudan called Tuesday for a regional solution to the crisis over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and the presence of foreign forces massed in the Gulf. Averting war in the Gulf was an essential task because Muslims stood to lose most if fighting broke out, Tehran Radio quoted President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as telling Sudan's military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir. "This sedition must be stopped as soon as possible with the cooperation of regional countries... foreign forces have come to the region with the aim of securing their illegitimate interests," Rafsanjani said.

Israelis attack Hizbollah bases

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Two Israeli helicopter gunships rocketed and strafed guerrilla bases of pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim fundamentalists in South Lebanon Tuesday, police reported. They said there was no immediate word on casualties from the 15-minute raid on Deidaba Hills, a stronghold of Hizbollah, five kilometres north of Israel's self-designated "security zone." An Israeli army spokeswoman said no Israeli helicopters were in action over Lebanon on Tuesday.

King and Benjeddid explore means for Gulf peace solution

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Algerian President Chadli Benjeddid flew into Amman Tuesday and immediately went into talks with His Majesty King Hussein on means to resolve the Gulf crisis.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Algerian leader's two-day visit was aimed at "exchanging views on the Gulf crisis and means to find a peaceful settlement through inter-Arab dialogue that could pave the way for a pan-Arab dialogue."

Benjeddid, who is scheduled to leave for Baghdad Wednesday, is accompanied by a delegation comprising Foreign Minister Sid Mohammed Ghazali, adviser Mohammed Sahnoun and senior officials.

King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, parliament speakers, senior officials and diplomats were at the

airport to receive the president. Talks between the King and Benjeddid, held later at the royal palace, were attended by the Crown Prince, Badran, Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem. On the Algerian side, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the president and the country's ambassador to Jordan.

No immediate details were available on the talks. Petra said the discussion covered the latest developments in the region and ways to peacefully resolve the Gulf crisis.

An Arab diplomatic source quoted by the Associated Press said Benjeddid had started his mission after receiving assurances from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia that he was willing to negotiate a solution with Iraq. The diplomat, who was not

identified, was quoted as saying that King Fahd had agreed to meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein after Iraq starts withdrawing its troops from Kuwait.

"The Algerian president has received assurances from Saudi Arabia that leaders there are willing to discuss the U.S.-led military presence in the Gulf and the possibility of convening bilateral Arab meetings which include a Saudi-Iraqi meeting," the diplomat was quoted as saying by the AP.

The report could not be independently confirmed. The AP also noted that the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) denied Sunday there had been any change in the kingdom's policy towards the Gulf crisis and insisted on an unconditional and total Iraqi pullout from Kuwait and restoration of the toppled emiri regime of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

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Israeli soldier wounded in Nablus tyre-bomb blast

Army imposes new 'security' measures

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A bomb in blazing tyre exploded in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, wounding an Israeli soldier, the army said Tuesday.

The explosion Monday night was the second in two days in the West Bank. A bomb in Bethlehem killed a soldier and wounded two Sunday, the third anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

Military sources said a home-made bomb was thrown at an army outpost in the occupied Gaza Strip Monday. It exploded without causing damage.

An Israeli bus driver reported

an explosion on a road near Nablus Monday night. An army spokesman said no one was injured.

The latest underground leaflet issued by leaders of the revolt urged Palestinians to use "all means" of struggle. Some Israelis interpreted this as a call to take up arms.

Palestinian leaders say they will resist grassroots pressure for more violent action and wage their struggle for independence with stones, firebombs and international publicity.

Israeli troops began putting up

barbed wire barriers across some roads leading into Bethlehem on Tuesday, but the area around the traditional site of Christ's birth was not affected.

Palestinians reported the blocking of back roads leading from other locations in the West Bank.

Asked about the move, the army said: "The army is taking a variety of actions to decrease violence in the territories. We have no intention to spill out all the means. We don't have the intention to block roads without need in Bethlehem."

The town's 10,000 Palestinian

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U.N. vote remains stalled

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council has postponed a vote on a Middle East peace conference until Wednesday, one day after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met U.S. President George Bush.

On the eve of the Bush-Shamir meeting Tuesday, the 15-member council voted 9-1 to adopt a Soviet motion to delay its long-awaited vote on the Israeli-occupied territories. The session already has been delayed several times at U.S. request.

The United States is trying to avoid casting its veto of a resolution which, it argues, would be interpreted as "capitulating" to Iraq's demand to link the Arab-Israeli conflict and Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2. Iraq has been calling for a

comprehensive Middle East peace conference as part of any agreement to withdraw from Kuwait.

Israel is asking that its staunchest ally, the United States, veto any reference to a conference.

A veto, however, would offend Arabs and possibly undermine the carefully crafted U.S.-led coalition arrayed against Iraq.

France and China abstained from the Security Council vote while Cuba, Colombia, Malaysia and Yemen opposed any delay.

A U.S. veto would be its first in the Security Council since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The United States has since the invasion twice allowed passage of resolutions highly critical of Israel.

The United States, council members and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were considering several options for softening the resolution, but the favoured approach appeared to be removing reference to the conference from the key, operative paragraphs of the resolution, shifting it into the non-operative preamble and into a non-binding presidential statement.

If approved, it would be the first time the Security Council ever has called for a Mideast peace conference.

Negotiations continued throughout Monday among a team comprising representatives of the United States, Finland and Yemen, which holds the council presidency this month.

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U.S. will not settle Gulf crisis at 'Israel's expense' — Shamir

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday after meeting President George Bush that he believed the United States would not settle the Gulf crisis at Israel's expense.

"I trust the president... he said it several times and he said it to me now again that there will not be any deal at the expense of Israel," Shamir told reporters outside the White House after meeting Bush for about an hour and a half.

Israel has repeatedly said that any settlement of the Gulf crisis that leaves Iraq's military intact could lead to danger later, particularly for the Jewish state.

Israel's fears that a deal might be in the works arose on the news that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would travel to Baghdad and that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz would

come to Washington in what Bush called going "the extra mile for peace" in the Gulf.

Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly said afterwards that Shamir told Bush he would be looking for more U.S. aid to help settle Soviet immigrants.

He said Shamir gave no specific figure and that Bush made no commitment for more assistance.

Israeli officials said before the meeting that Shamir would tell Bush that Israel does not intend to launch any preemptive strikes against Iraq.

Kelly said that Shamir did not talk about "potential Israeli actions" but that Bush thanked him for keeping a low profile in the crisis.

"There was a strong expression of identity of views on seeing Iraqi aggression rebuffed," Kelly told reporters.

But he also said "there was no attempt to duck the tough issues" of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and Israel's use of force against Palestinian protests in those areas. Kelly did not elaborate.

Bush and Shamir have openly sparred over the past year over Israeli refusal to engage in peace talks with Palestinians. But in this meeting a warm atmosphere appeared to have prevailed.

"It was a friendly and good exchange of views," according to Kelly, who said Bush assured Shamir that Israel would continue to maintain its military dominance in the region but that the United States wanted to assist Arab nations as well.

Shamir said the session was a very good and friendly meeting that he hopes "will further enhance the special relationship" between the two countries.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives Algerian President Chadli Benjeddid upon his arrival here (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

One million troops in and around Kuwait, U.S. says

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The number of Iraqi troops in and near Kuwait has swollen to over 500,000 while U.S. and allied forces in the Gulf now total more than 480,000, the Defence Department said Tuesday.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said an additional 20,000 Iraqi troops had been sent into Kuwait and southern Iraq since last Thursday and that Iraq had over 4,000 tanks supporting its forces in the area.

Williams said that U.S. soldiers, airmen and sailors in the Gulf region now total more than 260,000 and that forces from other nations allied against Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion and

occupation of Kuwait had reached over 220,000.

The spokesman declined to say where Iraq had drawn the extra troops from to fortify its defensive positions in the Kuwait region, but said the addition was "a rounding out of existing brigades and divisions" in the region.

He said more than half of the 500,000 Iraqi troops in the region were in Kuwait itself.

The number of American forces in the Gulf has been growing steadily since the United States began its build-up in early August. The total is expected to reach about 400,000 by mid-January.

The Soviet Union which had

stood with the United States in the five-month Gulf crisis, has backed the tough stand taken by Secretary of State James Baker on holding talks in Baghdad.

The endorsement came from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at a meeting in Houston with Baker on the Gulf situation.

Baker has rejected an Iraqi proposal that he go to Baghdad on Jan. 12, only three days before the deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to quit Kuwait or face a forcible eviction.

Baker said Sunday he "won't be a party to playing games that

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De Michelis: Chance of Gulf war receding

Quayle sees Congressional inaction as support for Bush

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said Tuesday that war in the Gulf has become less likely in the last two weeks but warned Iraq against underestimating international resolve to force it out of Kuwait.

"The possibility of a peaceful solution is greater than it was in the recent past," De Michelis said in remarks to the European Parliament.

But he added, "the fact that we are more optimistic today than yesterday doesn't mean we should in any way slacken our effort. The possibility of a military solution still exists."

De Michelis, whose country holds the European Community's (EC) rotating presidency, will hold talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz next Wednesday and Thursday in Rome — shortly after Aziz meets with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington.

De Michelis said he will make it "crystal clear" to Aziz that Iraq must meet United Nations demands to pull out of Kuwait and restore the ousted Kuwaiti government by Jan. 15, or face war.

"It will be a meeting for dialogue and discussion," De Michelis said. "It's not a search for compromise."

He said the EC was willing to discuss Iraq's grievances against Kuwait and other tensions in the Middle East, but only after an unconditional and complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"There can be no peaceful solution without unconditional withdrawal," De Michelis said.

He said three recent events had made a peaceful outcome more likely: Iraq's Dec. 6 announcement that all foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait would be released; Washington's decision to hold talks with Iraq; and the EC's invitation for Aziz.

Jacques Delors, president of the EC Executive Commission, also said Iraq should not see these events as a weakening of the determination of the nations with forces in the Gulf area

PINEHURST, North Carolina (Agencies) — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle said Tuesday the Bush administration would like to have a congressional resolution to bolster its Gulf policy but also views inaction as a show of support.

He told a small group of reporters at a Republican governors' conference here that the Republican administration considers congressional inaction on any resolution as supporting the administration's course in the Gulf.

"We're going to interpret the silence as supportive," Quayle said.

Quayle's talk with reporters came as the governors wound up their annual meeting at this North Carolina golf resort.

During a speech to governors Monday, Quayle said the U.S. administration would find it "unacceptable" to have unlimited patience with Iraq to get out of Kuwait before the military option is used.

He also criticised some unidentified members of Congress — which has held hearings on Gulf policy — for "playing politics" over the crisis.

The U.N. Security Council has set a Jan. 15 deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, after which U.S.-led forces in the area are authorised to use force.

Many Democrats have suggested the administration was impatient, unwilling to see if economic sanctions would work and rushing to use the military option.

Quayle refused to say who he was accusing in Congress of playing partisan politics when asked whether he was singling out Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn for criticism.

The Georgia Democrat, a possible Democratic presidential hopeful, has questioned the administration's military intentions in the Gulf.

Over 700 Westerners opt to remain in Iraq and Kuwait

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Over 700 Europeans and Americans would remain in Iraq and Kuwait after the ongoing airlift comes to an end Wednesday, according to reports from Washington and European capitals.

Three Iraqi aircraft left Baghdad Tuesday carrying about 550 Western and Japanese, airport sources and diplomats said.

One of the planes flew to Frankfurt carrying just 15 Americans instead of around 400 as originally expected, the diplomats said.

The other aircraft left for London with 313 and for Bangkok with 155 Japanese, three Australians and a Thai.

The flight's departure was several hours late because of delays in getting overflight permission from Iran, which has been fastidious in observing U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Japanese embassy sources said the passengers included 78 Japanese who had been kept at strategic sites in Iraq and Kuwait

to prevent possible U.S. attack and 14 diplomats from the embassy in Kuwait.

The United States expects that up to 400 American citizens will choose to remain in Iraq and Kuwait after the evacuation of foreigners is completed, a senior official said Monday.

"Overall total of Americans is about 550 to 600, but I would immediately caution you to say that many of those may be people who wish to remain, who have families there who wish to remain with them, and the number that still has to come out is probably considerably lower."

Many of the 400 expected to stay were members of non-American families, a considerable number of them children. They had been offered the option to leave on previous evacuation flights but had chosen to stay, the official said.

The U.S. embassy in Baghdad would try to stay in touch with them even after the evacuation, he said.

Officials at the British embas-

PLO welcomes King's call for dialogue

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has welcomed His Majesty King Hussein's call for inter-Arab dialogue which can pave the way for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis and other outstanding issues in the Middle East.

Abdullah Horani, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the King's call, contained in an address to the Staff College earlier this week, "is a genuine expression of his ideas to help solve the Gulf issue."

"The King's views that a solution of the crisis should come about within an Arab framework and that the Arabs should take the initiative in all matters pertaining to their own interests should have Arab support," he said.

King Hussein's initiative, Horani added, "reaffirms the need for linking the Middle East question with the Gulf crisis since both issues are interrelated and their settlement can ensure stability and security for the region."

Horani called on all Arab states to implement the call with a view to forcing the United States administration to respect the Arab views.

Referring to the ongoing debate at the U.N. Security Council on providing protection to the Palestinian people and convening of an international conference, Horani said: "Should the United States veto the resolution, then Washington would offer further evidence that it adopts a double standard in dealing with Security Council resolutions and in the application of the international legitimacy."

Abdullah Jibara, Sudan's ambassador here, described the King's speech as characterised with rationalism and one that embodies the aspirations of Arab states in solidarity in the face of the common threats and the joint action that must be adopted to protect Arab interests.

In Havana, a senior PLO official said Monday that the Arab-Israeli conflict was the "mother of all conflicts" in the Middle East, including the Gulf crisis.

In an interview with Cuba's state-run Radio Rebelde, the PLO's head of foreign affairs Farouq Kaddoumi condemned the presence of U.S. and multinational forces in the Gulf and called for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

"The Palestine cause and the

(Continued on page 5)

sy said 100 of their citizens were leaving, but about 150 would stay in Iraq and Kuwait. Some of them want to stay for family reasons or because of financial obligations; others would leave on later flights.

Other foreigners also were staying.

About 50 foreign medical and paramedical staff, most of them Westerners, have volunteered to remain at Baghdad's Ben Al Bitar hospital, according to the Irish company that owns the hospital.

Reports from European capitals said about 150 to 200 foreign nationals were staying on in Iraq.

Tuesday's flights took the number of foreigners who left Iraq and Kuwait over the last three days to about 1,637, leaving an estimated 1,000 behind.

U.S. officials in Washington said the flight to Frankfurt was the last scheduled to evacuate Americans from Iraq and Kuwait.

Opposition to Gulf policy mounts among Americans

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The widow of Rev. Martin Luther King, Coretta Scott King, and other peace advocates are calling for a non-violent approach to the Gulf crisis, beginning with nationwide peace demonstrations on Jan. 15.

The Security Council has given Iraq until Jan. 15, to withdraw from Kuwait or face a possible military strike to liberate the emirate.

Jan. 15 is also the birthday of Mrs. King's late husband, famous for his civil rights activism.

"It is so ironic that the Security Council has chosen Jan. 15, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as a line in the sand appropriately called 'dead-line,'" said Joseph E. Lowery, the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights organisation which Dr. King headed.

Mrs. King and Lowery spoke on behalf of the National Coalition of Conscience, which they lead.

The coalition is calling for protests across America on Jan. 15 against a military solution to the Gulf crisis.

It wants the Jan. 15 deadline to Iraq withdrawal, and wants an international peacekeeping force sent to the region, with non-Arab

nations restricted to 20 per cent of the total force.

The coalition also calls for an international peace conference in the Middle East.

At a news conference held Monday, Mrs. King said "we will not tolerate making this a day of war and military aggression."

"We support international sanctions and we demand that they be given enough time to work so that our young men and women can return from the Gulf and enjoy the blessings of peace," she said.

"If war breaks out it has been estimated that 20,000 Americans could lose their lives. This is too high a price to pay for cheap gas," she said.

Opinions change

A majority of Americans still believe the United States will go to war with Iraq but the release of U.S. nationals has raised hopes for peace in the Gulf, a new poll shows.

The 61 per cent of those polled by ABC-TV who said they expected a war was down 11 points in a single week, the largest decline in war expectations since the crisis began more than four months ago, the U.S. network said.

Support for war also appears to have declined slightly.

A week ago, 63 per cent of those interviewed said they would support a war if Iraq does not leave Kuwait until after the Jan. 15 deadline set by the United Nations. This week, 58 per cent said they would support such a war.

Also, 59 per cent now say it would be unacceptable for Iraq to withdraw from "some of Kuwait but not all of it," a drop from the 66 per cent who thought that way a week ago.

The poll found continued support for President George Bush's handling of the crisis, with 62 per cent supporting his efforts compared with 61 per cent last week.

Also relatively unchanged was the 65 per cent, compared to 67 per cent last week, who support the United States taking "all action necessary, including the use of military force," to make sure Iraq withdraws from Kuwait.

The survey also found 73 per cent were strongly opposed to a Gulf settlement being linked to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The random survey questioned 518 Americans by telephone on Sunday. It has a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points.

Blasting for peace in Beirut's killing zone

By Peter Smerdon
Reuter

BEIRUT — They're blowing up Beirut again — but this time for the sake of peace. A soldier stops traffic at the edge of the green line, once a killing zone but now a ruined, haunting reminder of 15 years of civil war.

"Get out of your cars and stand away from the buildings," he commands. "Pieces may fall off. Two shots ring out — a warning signal."

"Now put your hands over your ears and watch out," says the soldier, swiftly following his own orders. "It won't take long."

Seconds later a mine explodes, destroying a two-storey shop. The blast throws stone blocks 40 metres across Martyrs' Square.

A child screams but the soldier and the now-dusty civilians are grinning.

In Beirut, at least this month, peace is a controlled explosion and no casualties.

Troops are clearing mines and shells on the green line, a 12-kilometre swathe of streets splitting west Beirut from the east.

No-one knows how many people died on the green line in the dozens of blocks of wrecked clubs, markets, cafes and night clubs around Martyrs' Square in the abandoned heart of Beirut.

But the green line is the oldest and bloodiest frontline in Lebanon's civil war, which has claimed about 150,000 lives since 1975.

Reaching Martyrs' Square, once an international oasis for pleasure and high finance, is like stepping back in time to the pre-war beauty of Beirut — but despoiled by savagery.

The elegant rectangular square is now divided by dirt barricades reinforced with upturned cars, buses and shipping containers.

Mines and shells which are unsafe to move are blown up on the spot by the troops, who

took over Beirut and its suburbs on Dec. 3 after militia-men pulled out.

Bulldozers then scoop up the debris of concrete and dirt ramps and now down thick undergrowth and trees which turned downtown Beirut into a dangerous and unruly park.

Thousands of mines stud the green line. They range from plastic hand-sized anti-personnel weapons triggered by tripwires to 15-kilogramme of explosives in a drum set to wreck tanks.

The mines and shells themselves echo the international tone of this city — most were made in the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel, Italy, or Eastern Europe.

"We've found 600 mines in this area in three days but there are hundreds more," said an army lieutenant from the Sixth Brigade as the smoke cleared from the latest detonation. "It's a hard task. We have to search everywhere to be safe."

He estimated the clean-up would take three weeks before all roads in the Martyrs' Square area were open to traffic. The army warns civilians against visiting until then.

But scores of people arrive on foot each day to inspect what is left of their houses or businesses. Most are elderly; most children are too young to know the square as anything but ruins.

"Nothing, nothing," said a shocked old man near tears as he gazed at the shell of his pharmacy on the square, which he last dared to visit six years ago although he lives only 200 metres away.

Some others come to remember the dead in the square, where rival militias for years held positions just metres apart.

"We used to hate the Sixth Brigade as they're Muslim," said Joseph Saad, a doctor and former member of the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, after soldiers found

another mine.

"Now I love them more than I loved the Lebanese forces," "Three of my friends were killed in that factory one night 10 years ago," Saad said. "It was all a waste. They died for nothing. Those who were killed were often the best of people."

"The square changed a lot for the worse since we fought here. They can tear down buildings and rebuild but there will always be a barrier that cleaning up can't remove," he said.

Saad said his father hoped to reopen his shuttered shop, which was one block from the square and was looted in 1984. "But he's going to wait and see if peace works this time."

Another visitor was a current LF member, who said he had put away his gun and changed to civilian clothes on Dec. 3 when the militia pulled out of east Beirut.

"I know where the mines are because I put them here," he said. "But I won't tell the army. We gave them east Beirut. They can have it," said the militiaman, who gave his name as Tony.

Holes hacked through office and shop walls show how fighters moved around without taking to the streets, painted slogans eulogise their now scattered groups.

Paradoxically, the clean-up is endangering villas and arches built around Martyrs' Square under Ottoman rule during the 19th century and the start of the 20th.

Having survived the war scarred but relatively intact, the buildings now face destruction in the cause of peacetime development, to be replaced by multi-storey blocks made of steel-reinforced concrete.

A bronze monument commemorating the hanging of nationalists by the Turks in 1915 stands in the barren centre of the square. Shrapnel and bullets have punched holes in it.

UNICEF sends medical supplies to Iraq

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Iraq, which said last week that over 1,400 children had died because of medicine shortage, Tuesday received a consignment of medical supplies sent by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"We are concerned about the state of the Iraqi children," said Nigel Fischer, deputy regional director of UNICEF.

"We are trying to do everything we can," he added. "Vaccines have been imported to Iraq at the start of the crisis (legally food and medicine are exempt from the international embargo on Iraq) but because of the embargo, there were problems and things got delayed," Fischer told the Jordan

Times.

Reports from Baghdad, confirmed by visitors to Iraq, say that because of the lack of medicines treatment in Iraqi hospitals is deteriorating and hospitals are working under emergency conditions.

A national immunisation programme organised by UNICEF concludes in Iraq at the end of December. Dr. E.G. Murzi, UNICEF representative in Iraq, said that an assessment would be made of the programme after that.

"The programme is continuing as scheduled. We have to see in the next few weeks what has to be done," he said.

Murzi says reports of shortages of medicine and food in Iraq are "slightly exaggerated." He said he had conflicting reports about the situation

and "though there are shortages nutritionally, I do not think the children are starving."

Michael O'Brien, laboratory manager in Ben Al Bitar Hospital in Baghdad, said: "In our hospital we did not witness any babies dying."

"We had enough supplies to keep the basics going, but I don't know about other hospitals," O'Brien said.

The UNICEF shipment sent on Tuesday was worth \$400,000. Included in the shipment were 400,000 doses of anti-tuberculosis vaccine and 270,000 doses of measles vaccine, 5,000 midwifery kits and training material as well as 50,000 umbilical cord clamps and 650 infant weighing scales.

At present, UNICEF has four programmes and 11 projects in the field of health in Iraq. These include material child care programmes aimed at reducing the infant mortality rate which stands at 100 per 1,000 live births, Murzi told the Jordan Times.

Other aspects of the programme include social mobilisation and education. Murzi said in the last five years the amount spent on the project was \$2.850 million and this year a budget of \$2.4 million has been allocated.

Asked if UNICEF felt it was doing enough to help the Iraqi children to cope with shortages of food and medicine, Fischer said: "To find ways to give help support takes time. At present we are doing what we can. But the help is not enough."

UNICEF is "ready to assess the situation as soon as the prevailing circumstances would allow. The embargo must be lifted for us to become operational again. Our mandate is to reach kids everywhere," he said.

The ongoing immunisation programme aims at eradicating polio and neonatal tetanus by 1995, according to Murzi. "Control of acute and respiratory infection, diarrhoeal diseases and early childhood disability are areas which UNICEF and the Iraqi government are tackling," he added.

Bush to seek more funds for Gulf costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush will soon ask Congress \$12 billion to \$20 billion to help pay the costs of U.S. military operations in the Gulf, congressional officials said Monday.

The request would cover most of the fiscal 1991 expenses for the more than 100,000 American troops gathered in the Middle East for a potential clash with Iraq. But it would not cover the costs of a war, which would be much more expensive, reaching by one estimate \$1 billion to \$2 billion daily.

One congressional official said of the approaching money request, "the timetable is unclear, as well as the numbers, but they're saying we'll get it soon."

Capitol Hill officials, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said they did not know where the money for the operation would come from. But they noted that under the five-year budget bill enacted last month, possible expenditures for Operation Desert Shield were specifically left unlimited.

Some Democrats in Congress have said a temporary surcharge on income taxes might be necessary if fighting breaks out and costs soar.

In addition to the federal funds, the government is counting on receiving more than \$7 billion this year from allied nations.

According to a list kept by the Defence Department, that includes commitments of \$2.5 billion from Kuwait, \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates, \$2 billion from Japan, a \$1.1 billion from Germany, and \$95 million from South Korea. Saudi Arabia has committed food, fuel, water facilities and transportation.

Leon Panetta, who chairs the budget committee in the lower house of Congress, has said war with Iraq could cost \$1 to \$2 billion daily.

But Republican congressional aides have said they believe that it would cost about \$12 billion for the 100,000-troop force to remain in the Gulf for a year — excluding contributions from allies.

But the Socialists appealed to all governments deploying forces in the region in the anti-Iraq coalition to give all possible support to the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq before undertaking military action.

Israeli legislator favours Palestinian state in Gaza

TEL AVIV (R) — A leading peace activist in Israel's main opposition Labour Party has proposed the creation of a Palestinian state in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Member of Parliament Yossi Beilin, 42, told Israel television he had not shared his idea with Shimon Peres, leader of the left-centre party and his longtime mentor.

"We are speaking of negotiations between Israel and a Palestinian delegation with a primary purpose of bringing about Israel's evacuation from the Gaza Strip, to create in the Gaza Strip a Palestinian state, sovereign and independent, with a U.N. representative and everything that a state has," he said.

Leftist parties have backed creation of separate Israeli and Palestinian states side by side but the idea has not caught on in Labour, the main rival of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's rightist Likud. Likud opposes ceding occupied land.

A leader in party efforts to contact Palestinian activists, Beilin proposed Israel negotiate security arrangements with Gaza's 700,000 Palestinians.

Beilin said arrangements would also have to be made for the more than 2,000 Jewish settlers there. In the occupied West Bank, home to more than one million Palestinians, Beilin said he envisaged holding a Palestinian referendum once Israel made peace with Jordan, Syria and Iraq.

Socialists want Iraq to leave Kuwait

MADRID (AP) — European Socialist leaders have urged Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait to avert war.

In an eight-point statement issued after a meeting of the Union of European Community Socialist Parties, party heads condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"Peace in the Gulf and in the Middle East more generally can only be guaranteed if Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is shown to have been unaverted," the group said.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez hosted the meeting attended by British Labour Party head Neil Kinnock, Italy's Bettino Craxi, French Socialist Pierre Mauroy and representatives of parties from the eight other EC countries.

The leaders called on Iraq to recognise the validity of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the Kuwaiti government and the freeing of all foreigners.

The statement said peace in the region was linked to the peaceful resolution of disputes between Iraq and Kuwait through negotiation following a complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty.

But the Socialists appealed to all governments deploying forces in the region in the anti-Iraq coalition to give all possible support to the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq before undertaking military action.

The leaders welcomed U.S. President George Bush's initiative to send a representative to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and to receive a top Iraqi diplomat.

The Socialists also backed an initiative from EC foreign ministers for a direct appeal to Iraq to comply with U.N. demands.

They repeated their support for an international conference under U.N. auspices to address the problems of the Middle East as a whole, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestinian demands for an independent state.

"In this context the issue of disarmament in the region should be tackled, including destruction of chemical arsenals and a halt to the development of biological and nuclear weapons," the statement said.

U.S. government objects to Swedish letter to Iraq

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The U.S. ambassador delivered a verbal criticism to the Swedish Foreign Ministry Monday over a letter Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson wrote to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, national television reported.

Ambassador Charles Redman informed Sweden's second-highest ranking Foreign Ministry official, Peter Schori, "about the United States' view on the letter" in a meeting Monday afternoon, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Lars-Olof Lundberg.

Lundberg declined to give any details of the talks.

Carlsson's letter has been sharply criticised by Swedish opposition leaders for linking Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Last week, Israel's under-secretary of state, Eli Rubin, delivered a message saying the Israeli government was irritated over the comparison.

Lundberg characterised the meeting with the U.S. official as an exchange of opinions. He said Schori informed Redman of the Swedish view and they "agreed the matter was closed."

The television report said, without attribution, that the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., was considering whether to make public the message delivered by Redman.

The U.S. embassy said it would not comment on diplomatic communications and refused to confirm or deny the report.

Swedish TV reported earlier from Baghdad that parts of Carlsson's letter were read in the Iraqi parliament before it voted to free more than 50 Swedes held since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

There is also the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, as well as the Israeli and Syrian troops in Lebanon, Carlsson wrote.

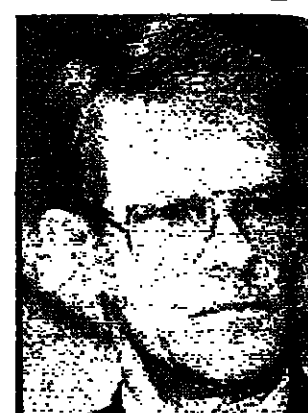
Most leaders of other Western countries which have had national elections in Iraq and Kuwait have refused Iraqi's attempts to link the Kuwait crisis with the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Since the Swedes came home, Carlsson has been under almost daily attack from opposition politicians about the content of his letter.

Formigoni said the message contained "a series of reflections on the reasons that drove the foreigners, and in particular, why they were impressed and convinced, encouraged by the last European delegation, that led, and by some other gestures of dialogue that they have known in these times, and that also a series of reflections, and why not, of proposals on a possible way out of the crisis."

"I believe that in this moment it's necessary to do everything to give body to the dialogue and, probably, with good will by both sides and, certainly, with careful attention and with the firm will to save principles, it will be possible to come out of it," Formigoni said.

"The (Iraqi) foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, and the president of the Iraqi republic himself, Saddam Hussein, gave me various messages for Europe. A message for the Pope, one for the pres-



Ingvar Carlsson

tic communications and refused to confirm or deny the report.

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Politician brings message from Iraq to Euro leaders

ROME (AP) — An Italian politician said Monday he brought back from Iraq messages from Saddam Hussein for the Pope and European leaders explaining the Iraqi leader's decision to release all foreigners and suggesting a possible way out of the crisis.

Roberto Formigoni, vice-president of the European Parliament, did not disclose what the reasons or proposals were. Formigoni, who went to Baghdad to seek the release of as many foreigners as possible, returned to Italy Sunday night aboard the first flight of several airlifts of foreigners made possible by the Iraqi leader's decision. The Italian-chartered Iraqi Airways flight carried about 200, most of them Italian or other Europeans.

"The (Iraqi) foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, and the president of the Iraqi republic himself, Saddam Hussein, gave me various messages for Europe. A message for the Pope, one for the pres-

ident of the European Parliament, another for Italy that holds the presidency of the European Community and the principal European statement, Formigoni said in an interview with state radio.

Formigoni said the message contained "a series of reflections on the reasons that drove the foreigners, and in particular, why they were impressed and convinced, encouraged by the last European delegation, that led, and by some other gestures of dialogue that they have known in these times, and that also a series of reflections, and why not, of proposals on a possible way out of the crisis."

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary to Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
22:00 News in Arabic
22:40 Play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 Economic Perspective
22:00 News in English
22:20 A Quiet Conspiracy

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 Fair
06:21 (Sunrise) Duha
11:29 Dhahar
14:14 'Asr
16:37 Maghreb
18:00 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiftdale, Tel. 310749
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Ascension Tel. 627440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661787
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Ascension Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711391
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685329
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 911205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Khalid 894204
Dr. Rami Al Mizzan 894738
Dr. Mohammad Al Awad 741391
Dr. Mohammad Al Starawi 658788
Firas Pharmacy 561912
Ferdous pharmacy 732326
Al Asana pharmacy 637245
Najmouk pharmacy 624772
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 646482
Shunaita pharmacy 637860
DRID:
Dr. Ali Al Samman 1
Al Sharaa pharmacy (98238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Khushashneh 1
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630241
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 890380
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680190
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6424116
Al-Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 6424116
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malbas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 6641714
Shamsat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 849845
Al-Bashir, J. Amn. 7711126
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Isalun, Al-Muhayyir 771010
Al-Bashir, J. Amn. 7711126
Army, Marja 8016115
Queen Ala Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)832323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)901071
Rm Sira Hospital (09)986732
BRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)127555
Catholic Hospital (02)127575
Rm Al-Nafes Hospital (02)127100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

COMPANY

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Ala Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6424116
Al-Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 6424116
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Cabinet approves agreements of trade ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Tuesday approved Jordan's participation in the 14th session of the Board of Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development due to be held in Rome on Jan. 22.

The Jordanian delegation will be led by Planning Minister Khaled Amin Abdullah.

The Cabinet also approved the minutes of the agreement concluded between Jordan and Romania during the Joint Jordanian-Romanian Committee meeting which was held here on Nov. 25.

The agreement provides for Romania importing 65,000 tonnes of phosphates until the end of this year, and 400,000 tonnes during the first half of 1991.

It also called for organising trade centres and specialised trade exhibitions in both countries. The agreement also called for enhancing cooperation in the field of oil exploration, energy and electricity.

The Cabinet also approved the minutes of the Joint Jordanian commercial exchange and cooperation in the field of industry and scientific and technological research. The Jordanian and Chinese sides also discussed the possibilities of using the loan provided by the Chinese government.

JNRCS, Swedish Red Cross to help the needy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Tuesday voiced appreciation of the assistance received from various Red Cross societies to promote its humanitarian activities in the Kingdom, and said that the society, in cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross would soon embark on the winter campaign of distributing basic food commodities and clothes to the needy.

JNRCS Deputy President Mohammad Hadid said that Tuesday the society had received a consignment of medicines and relief materials as a gift from the Spanish Red Cross Society. This assistance he said, consisted of six tonnes of dried milk and children milk and medicines.

"Earlier the JNRCS had received the second shipment of relief supplies from Iceland's Red Cross Society," Hadid said. He said that the Icelandic consignment had consisted of 35 tonnes of canned food, biscuits, and blankets estimated to be worth \$500,000.

Hadid said that JNRCS was grateful to the foreign Red Cross societies for their assistance and would pursue all efforts to provide the best service to the people in need.

"The JNRCS which was instrumental in caring for the thousands of evacuees of different nationalities who arrived in Jordan over the past four months, was maintaining close cooperation with the foreign Red Cross societies which help Jordan carry out its humanitarian activities," Hadid said.

Soon, he said, the JNRCS will embark on a campaign for the distribution of clothes and other basic needs to the needy people of Jordan in cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross Society which has been assisting Jordan in humanitarian fields.

Hadid also announced that JNRCS would soon organise an international gathering at Al Azraq evacuee camp to discuss ways of bolstering ties of friendship and cooperation between the Red Cross and the Red Crescent movements, and the role of youth in promoting the cause of world peace.

House meets to discuss draft laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday holds a session, to be attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members, to discuss draft laws and hear replies by ministers to a number of queries from deputies.

According to a Parliament statement, the agenda includes a reply from the Minister of education and higher education to a question by Deputy Nayef Al Hadid related to matters concerning university and community college graduates from southern Amman regions, and a reply by the foreign minister to a question by Deputy Ahmad Abbadi about issues related to the foreign ministry's handling

of matters related to the Gulf crisis. The statement said that the House would hear the views of Deputy Ahmad Kafawin about government scholarships and Deputy Fuad Kheifat about the formation of a committee to organise the scholarship process at the ministries of education and higher education.

Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin is expected to talk about the role of the official information services with regard to the Gulf crisis.

The statement said that the question of rescheduling farmer's loans to money-lending institutions would also be discussed during Wednesday's session.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Walesa

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Polish leader Lech Walesa to congratulate him on being elected president. King Hussein wished Walesa luck in leading his country to a brighter future and expressed hope that cooperation between Jordan and Poland would be enhanced for the good of both peoples.

King condoles Malaysia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Malaysian King Azlan Shah Bin Yusoff Izzeddin condoling him on the death of Prince Tago Abdul Rahman. The King condoled the King of Malaysia, the family of the deceased and the Malaysian people over the great loss and highlighted the distinguished efforts of the deceased at both national and Islamic levels.

House pledges support for intifada

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday issued a statement lauding the Palestinian uprising and the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate their homeland. The statement, issued on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, pledged full support for the Palestinian people and the "children of the stones" in their struggle to liberate Palestine. It said that the House would now "allow any person with malicious intentions to harm the Palestinian uprising or its national unity in order to ensure the purity of the intifada."

Qasem, Giacomelli review UNRWA services

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Tuesday met in his office with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Giorgio Giacomelli and discussed with him the services provided by UNRWA to the Palestinian refugees. Qasem and Giacomelli reviewed UNRWA services in Jordan and the support Jordan provides for the agency to enable it to perform its duties towards the Palestinian refugees. They also discussed the agency's financial situation and its emergency programme, started in 1988 in the occupied territories.

Abul Huda visits Maan Governorate

MAAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Communications Abul Huda Tuesday visited Maan Governorate where he inaugurated several post offices and met with citizens. The minister was briefed by citizens on their needs and demands. Abul Huda told them that the ministry would be providing services to the citizens in accordance with its capabilities, and that it aims at meeting the citizens' demands.

Amman Municipality's budget endorsed

AMMAN (Petra) — The municipal committee of the Greater Amman Municipality Tuesday endorsed a JD 33,985,100 budget for 1991. Meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Mayor Ismail Amouri, the committee also approved of recommendations for appropriation of land for municipal use and reducing the annual rent of 56 stores at the King Abdullah Gardens, in view of the present economic conditions, by 30 per cent for one year only. The committee also approved a set of administrative measures and accepted the appointment of two members to the municipal council: Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib and the University of Jordan librarian.

Firm to build housing estate

AMMAN (Petra) — A local construction firm Monday signed a contract with the Housing Corporation to build a new housing estate in the Zarqa Governorate.

The housing estate will consist of 110 housing units, built on separate plots of land so they can be enlarged later on by the beneficiaries, according to corporation Director Yousef Hyasat who signed the contract with the managing director of the local company.

"At the same time the Housing Corporation is offering 358 plots of land at the site, for sale, so that beneficiaries can build their own homes in the style they

like, but at the same time they can benefit from the infrastructure laid at the site by the corporation," Hyasat noted. Under the contract, the local firm will build a network of inroads of 34,620 square metres in area in addition to pedestrian lanes, will lay electricity, telephone and water networks and build public gardens.

According to Hyasat, the whole project will be set up on 204 dunums of land, and the construction work is expected to cost JD 92,733, which is to be financed through loans from the Housing Bank and the World Bank equally.

JVA urges farmers to use water judiciously

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has issued an appeal to the valley farmers to adhere strictly to a water distribution programme and warned that the available water resources for irrigating farms are at a dangerously low level due to the lack of rain so far.

The appeal came from JVA's Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah who said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that water levels in reservoirs behind dams, especially the King Talal dam and the Wadi Al Arab and Kafrein dams, were at a critical stage. These dams feed the King Abdullah (east Ghor) canal which distributes water to farmlands in the valley.

"Lack of rainfall so far is bound to have its negative effects on the agricultural situation in Jordan in general and in the Jordan Valley, which produces most of the country's crops, in particular," Wishah warned.

"Water flowing from Yarmouk River to the canal in the valley is now running at the rate of 2.8 cubic metres per second, whereas it flowed at the rate of four cubic metres a second by this time last year," Wishah pointed out.

He said that the total amount of water stored behind Wadi Al Arab dam stood at 680,000 cubic metres, down from nearly three million cubic metres in December 1989, while that behind the King Talal dam was estimated to be 7.6 million cubic metres down from 17 million in December last year; Kafrein dam holds 575,000 cubic metres, down from 1.5 million cubic metres of water in December 1989.

Earlier this year Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf said in a statement that Jordan was seeking to secure financing for the construction of Al Wahdah dam on the Yarmouk River near the Syrian border, but negotiations were still facing difficulties.

The dam, to be known as the Makaren dam, would be needed to provide sufficient amounts of water for irrigating farmlands in the Jordan Valley; its projected capacity is estimated at 250 million cubic metres.

"The designs for the dam were ready and the construction of the diversion tunnel for Yarmouk River has been completed, but nothing can be done until funds are forthcoming," the minister said.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has also warned that Jordan was expected to face sharp shortages of water supply in the near future and should be turning its attention to the prospects of benefiting from non-traditional water resources like recycling treated waste water to be used in farming, desalination of water and the utilisation of water from Yarmouk River.

Last month the Ministry of Water and Irrigation announced that it was finalising feasibility studies to set up two dams on the Wadi Waleh River and the Wadi Mujib River at an estimated total cost of JD 70 million to save water for irrigation. It expects to collect a total of 85 million cubic metres of water stored behind the two dams when completed.



Junsai Terasawa, a Buddhist monk from Japan, photographed at Amman airport upon his arrival from Baghdad after seven days of fasting and praying for peace in the Iraqi capital (Photo by Yousef Al Allam)

Buddhist monk with drums of peace says Gulf war will be most devastating

AMMAN (AP) — A Buddhist monk who went to Iraq to pray and fast for peace said he intends to travel to Europe and Asia to enlist hundreds of pacifists to join a peace camp on the Iraqi-Saudi border.

"There are millions of people in the world who do not want war," Junsai Terasawa, 41, of Japan told reporters at Amman airport. "I hope to meet them in Japan, other Asian and European countries and return with them to the peace camp."

Terasawa arrived here aboard a scheduled Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad along with several British and Irish nationals who refused to say if they had been held in Iraq. Several of the passengers were diplomats.

Iraq's parliament Friday endorsed a call to allow all foreigners held in Iraq and Kuwait to leave. Some of them left on Friday and an exodus aboard chartered Jumbo jets began Saturday.

Terasawa said he spent seven days praying and fasting for peace and beating "drums of peace" in front of the American embassy in the Iraqi capital.

He said he is convinced that a military conflict in the Gulf "will be the most devastating war in the history of the world."

The clean-shaven monk, wearing his order's saffron robes and clutching his earthly possessions in a haversack, said the Iraqi government had given permission for international peace activists to set up a camp along the border with Saudi Arabia.

"There will be people from Britain, Germany, Japan, and all over the world at the peace

camp," Terasawa said in fluent English.

"Although I am alone, I represent the Buddhist community in Japan and other Asian countries," he added. Terasawa is one of the leaders of the Nippon Zannyoji community.

Peace campaigners said in London Tuesday the proposed peace camp between Saudi Arabia and Iraq will be set up in a few days and hold thousands of people by next month.

Campaigner Jean Dreze told a London news conference the Iraqis have given their permission for the camp which organisers expect will attract volunteers from around the world.

"Five thousand Americans went to Nicaragua to oppose military action by the contras. We expect similar support for this," said Dreze, a 31-year-old Belgian peace activist who has been in Iraq for a month working out the camp's logistics.

Dreze, and four other advance workers from the Gulf peace team, will return to the Gulf in the next few days to set up the camp in "neutral territory," 180 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, 260 kilometres southwest of Basra and 80 kilometres west of Kuwait.

Volunteers from different countries will travel to Jordan early next week, gathering in Amman before heading to the camp and pitching their tents, Dreze said.

The Gulf peace team was negotiating with Saudi Arabia to set up another camp nearer to Saudi Arabia, but also in the "neutral territory" zone, the activist said.

Campaign gets under way to preserve Jerusalem's identity

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Israeli escalation of destruction of the Arab cultural identity of Jerusalem, with the massive settlement of Jewish immigrants there and the confiscation of Arab property, led a large group of local organisations and individuals to start a campaign to combat the Israeli attempts through a programme of action designed to preserve the Arab identity of the ancient Palestinian city.

A first step towards the defence of Jerusalem will be launched on Dec. 18 with a seminar on the measures taken by the Israeli authorities to eliminate the Muslim and Christian Arab cultural identity of Jerusalem, according to the spokesman of the preparatory committee of the seminar, Labib Kamhawi.

Speaking at a press conference Tuesday, Kamhawi stressed that a comprehensive and continuous campaign to combat Israeli schemes to destroy the "uniqueness" of Jerusalem would be implemented.

"It is an Arab duty, for both governments and peoples, to give Jerusalem the attention it needs. The identity of Jerusalem is at stake with the Israeli threat to turn it into a Jewish city, for Jews only," Kamhawi said.

The two-day seminar at the Philadelphia Hotel, organised by the Jerusalem Forum, Jerusalem Club and Jerusalem Charitable Society, will include participants specialised on Jerusalem from both Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The spokesman described the first seminar as an "informative workshop to come out with a clear picture on the

dangers facing Jerusalem and to prepare for an action programme to combat these dangers." The resolutions of the seminar, to be held under the slogan "Jerusalem: not to forget," will be announced on Dec. 20 at a popular rally scheduled at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The general preparatory committee of the first activity "to defend Jerusalem" includes professional unions, political parties from as far left as the Communist Party and as far right as the Muslim Brotherhood, members of the lower and upper houses of Parliament, Palestinian and Jordanian personalities and prominent members of Jerusalem families.

Kamhawi pointed out that the participation of people from all walks of life was evidence that the importance of the Arab identity of Jerusalem "goes beyond any political boundaries and there is a clear unity on this position."

"Protecting the Arab identity of Palestine can be done by protecting the Arab identity of Jerusalem," Kamhawi said.

The spokesman did not elaborate on what the action programme would include until the first seminar was finalised. However, he said that the programme would be practical and implementable, adding that there were preparations for a large-scale world conference on Jerusalem scheduled to take place in Amman in the first half of next year.

"The Zionist enemy does not only aim at destroying the Arab identity of Jerusalem, but at turning it from an Arab city with its culture, people and buildings into a Jewish city, for Jews only," Kamhawi said, adding that Israel has been escalating its attempts by settling as many Jewish im-

migrants as possible there at the expense of the original Palestinian Arabs and by confiscating Arab property.

"Twenty to 30 per cent of the Jewish immigrants are being settled in Jerusalem," the spokesman said, adding that this was being done with the American financial and political support.

"Israel cannot do this without the support of the U.S. government, and this contradicts international laws and charters and the United Nations resolutions," Kamhawi said.

He described Jerusalem as a city that summarises the civilisations of all humanity and said that Israel was attempting "to destroy all its uniqueness to turn it into a sole Jewish city and a jungle of armed cement blocks."

"The enemy's objective, which is now being dangerously escalated, is to ensure that the inhabitants of Jerusalem come from every country in the world: people that have nothing in common except their Jewish religion and Zionist beliefs," Kamhawi stressed.

He said that the Israeli plans for Jerusalem were part of a general plan to settle immigrant Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, adding it was "a crime against the Palestinians and a crime against humanity. It is also a challenge to the conscience of humanity and to the dignity of the Islamic and Christian worlds."

He said that the Israeli official escalation of the destruction of Jerusalem as a Muslim and Christian Arab capital must be confronted by the Arab masses and governments who should use all their powers and their political and economic influence.

Draft national charter finalised

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 60-member commission entrusted with drafting a national charter to guide the democratisation process in Jordan has finalised work on the charter draft which will be submitted to His Majesty King Hussein in three days' time, commission President Ahmad Obeidat announced on television Monday evening.

"The commission is now putting the finishing touches to the draft which is expected to help lay the foundation for political activities in the country," Obeidat said.

"The charter emphasises the identity of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and provides for concepts and principles which can pave the way for political pluralism which, in turn can enhance the concept of domination of the law and safeguard human rights and public liberties alike," Obeidat said.

In reply to question about political parties, Obeidat said that the draft charter did not limit the number of political parties or the forms of political activities in Jordan, he added that according to the Jordanian Constitution, political parties were allowed in the country and the charter could by no means conflict in views with the Constitution.

But he said that no political party could survive or could be allowed to take part in the democratisation process unless it was fully qualified to do so.

"There is a group of politicians in Jordan who had cast doubts about the national charter and its role in helping promote political life in the Kingdom, but these politicians should realise first and foremost that the charter's principles are based on the provisions of the constitution and are designed to corroborate

the democratic concept of the modern state of Jordan," Obeidat pointed out.

The national charter, he explained, is designed to stress on the form of government, its constitution, the rights of the people, which will be treated without discrimination, and citizen's human rights.

He said that the national charter also gave a general outline of the Kingdom's future orientation with regard to culture, education, science and technology as well as the information policy.

The national charter commission, which was entrusted with its task last April had formed five committees each tackling a certain aspect of the charter; their reports were then incorporated in one single report serving as a draft charter for final revision.

Private sector urged to boost imports, exports, find new markets

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade has called on the private sector to create what he called an umbrella that would organise the export/import process and coordinate efforts for opening new markets for national products.

"Jordanian producers and factories should aim at presenting high quality products, should reduce prices and build solid relations with consumers to win their confidence with goods competitive on the international markets," Ibrahim Badran said at a meeting with representatives of the Business and Professional Women Club in Jordan.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade, he said, is now concerned with promoting and backing small and medium size productive projects and investments in these areas.

Jordan has recently signed a protocol for the sale of \$42 million worth of products to the Soviet Union to help adjust the balance of payments and to open new markets in the Soviet Union.

Badran said, "The sale of the Jordanian goods will pay for Jordan's debts to the Soviet Union," Badran added.

Addressing the session was the club's President Hind Abdul

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WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "L'Orient des cafes" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mukarram Haghondoga at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- Lecture entitled "The Problem of Literary Criticism in Jordan" by Dr. Abdul Rahman Yaghi and Dr. Nabeel Al Sharif at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

AQABA CULTURAL WEEK

- Exhibition entitled "Goethe-Forest" at Aqaba Visitors' Centre.
- Exhibition entitled "Aila — an Islamic City on the China Sea" at Aqaba Visitors' Centre.

2,457 train in civil defence

DEIR ABU SAEED (Petra) — The number of people trained on civil defence works in Al Koura district till Tuesday had reached 2,457. The trainees had been enrolled in 45 courses organised by the Civil Defence Department (CDD), according to the CDD director in Deir Abu Saeed district.

He said students at secondary schools in the district were trained on evacuation operations in emergency cases. Civil defence committees were formed in the district's cities and villages as part of the district's preparation for emergency cases.

Handwritten signature: Jaber is 1990

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Hidden motives and wrong moves

THERE is no more need to read U.S. President George Bush's lips to know that he intends to maintain a strong military presence in the Gulf whether or not the Gulf crisis is resolved. As events unfold it becomes increasingly clear that American troops were rushed to the Gulf not so much to rescue Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, but to establish permanent American presence in the Gulf. In retrospect, the establishment of this U.S. military presence in the region was — and still is — an objective exceeding in importance and urgency the resolution of the Kuwaiti problem. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker all but said so in a television interview on Sunday. What adds insult to injury is the appearance that Moscow was in cahoot with Washington over this U.S. objective and has winked approvingly at it in return for food and aid. Yet the long-term effects on the Arab states in the Gulf region as a consequence of continued U.S. military deployment there must be analysed. Many of us view the military presence as a return to the days of colonialism and see Washington as undermining the survival of such Arab states at a time when the Americans pretend that their aim is to defend those Arabs from Iraqi aggression. Extended deployment of U.S. forces in the Gulf region would undermine Washington's credibility not only in the Arab World but also world-wide. Having repeatedly emphasised that the troops will be withdrawn the minute the Kuwaiti situation is resolved, the U.S. is now amending its policy on a critical aspect of the Gulf crisis. This development will further complicate the quest for a peaceful settlement thus making a compromise formula less likely. One wonders if that is not exactly what Bush really wishes and seeks. After all, Kuwait's oil is of marginal importance in comparison with the oil potential of Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab Gulf states. It is no longer far-fetched to imagine that the U.S. president would be willing to sacrifice Kuwait in return for a permanent foothold in Saudi Arabia where oil reserves are the greatest. How else could one interpret Baker's recent disclosures that American troops in Saudi Arabia are there to stay.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

His Majesty King Hussein's address to the Royal Command and Staff Academy presented a full picture of the Arab situation as well as the machinery required for settling the various issues plaguing the Arab World, said Al Ra'i daily. Any party keen on safeguarding the future of the Arab World can by no means object to the King's views which are designed to bring about peace not only to the Arabs but also to the whole world, the paper added. Acting from the concept that no selfish interests must gain priority over pan-Arab interests, the King urged the Arab leaderships to seize the present opportunity and try to find solutions to the region's problems through dialogue, said the paper. The King's call for an Arab-Arab dialogue reflects his keenness to create the necessary elements required for reconciliation which would be very beneficial to the achievement of the aspired settlement, the paper continued. It said that the Gulf crisis has proved beyond any doubt that the U.S. intervention was designed to maintain foreign powers' domination over the Arab wealth and Arab future so as to prevent the Arabs from achieving their aspired development and progress. Therefore, it said, it would be catastrophic for the Arabs to remain passive and indifferent to the development around them, or to allow themselves to remain disunited and in disarray, and watching their wealth looted by others.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily believes that the current discussions of the U.N. Security Council over the question of giving the Palestinians protection against repression in accordance with the Geneva conventions are most likely to end up with no fruitful results. Abdul Rahim Omar noted that the United States has rendered all the previous resolutions fruitless, and aborted those attempts to condemn Israel's atrocities. It is indeed sad to see the Security Council acting in this manner and unable to take a firm decision to provide protection to the Palestinians or to find means of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict after these long years and the numerous resolutions which were disregarded by the Jewish state, says the writer. Most probably, the council will come out with a resolution that would not only anger Israel or bring about dissatisfaction from Washington, but certainly cannot bring protection to the Palestinians, the writer predicts. While the council continues the debate, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is touring the United States, demanding more funds to finance the settlement of Soviet Jews in Israel and the occupied Arab territories, and calling on Washington to destroy the Iraqi military power that could threaten Israel. All this is going on while the world realises the facts about Israel: That it is occupying Palestinian land, that it is disregarding U.N. resolutions and that it is possessing a vast nuclear, chemical and biological arsenal threatening the neighbouring countries, the writer points out. He says that by refusing the idea of an international conference on the Middle East, the United States is openly helping Israel to achieve its goals.

Economic Forum

The general budget: oversqueezing leads to breakage

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

The 1991 budget speech and the draft budget itself provide a telling example of to what extent the Jordanian economy has been ravaged by the Gulf crisis. The crisis rocked the IMF-sponsored economic adjustment programme which was completing its first year and has prompted the drafting of a new one. In the process, the fiscal and external sector targets were missed. The minister of finance had to explain all that in a speech which consequently was one protracted statement of apology to the deputies, senators and the public. However, observers could significantly take note that the monetary targets were attained despite the crisis. The continuation of the crisis or withholding aid to Jordan should bear the right message to both Jordanians themselves of the austerity they should undertake and to the outside world of what ominous reactions to expect from a people squeezed to economic debacle.

As a result of the crisis, Jordan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1990 is to dive by a bewildering 8.2 per cent which will aggravate all existing economic problems and breed more of them. Domestic revenues are to tumble by 5.8 per cent, from JD 746.1 million in 1990 to JD 702.5 million in 1991. With this sort of self-financing receding rather than expanding in an economy where the rate of inflation is running at more than 8 per cent the government will have to cut its spending on services and subsidies which have so much to do with the quality of life and living

standards in a society with a sizable public sector. Besides, it will particularly entail curbing capital spending in 1991, which has always been the first victim of fiscal stringency. It is no surprise therefore that public capital expenditures fell from a target of JD 245.1 million in 1990 to an actual figure of only JD 188.3, that is by 23 per cent during that year.

The 1991 budget envisages the spending of JD 230 million on capital formation, hopefully to help in propping up economic growth. But if the crisis drags on and the foreign aid tap is kept turned off by our American "friends," this figure will again have to be slashed and, again, it will give another twist to the vicious spiral of negative growth. The alternative is to switch to more external borrowing which is a cure much worse than the ailment. (But anyway who is the lender that will be ready to bail out an economy marred by the outbreak of such a crisis?)

The 1991 budget deficit runs at JD 216.7 million compared with an actual deficit of JD 95 million in 1990 and with JD 137.3 million in 1989. However, this deficit, termed pre-financing deficit, excludes JD 135.2 million which represent spending to be made in repayment of external and internal public debt. The exclusion was made on the basis of the notion that these repayments will be financed from fresh borrowings. In purely arithmetic terms, they do not figure out in the deficit as the funds necessary to effect them will be available. But in functional terms, they are part of

the deficit because a deficit in the budget of any economic unit (firm, individual, household or government) is identical with its borrowings. In this sense, the "expanded" deficit of 1991 budget is around JD 352 million or 17 per cent of 1991 GDP.

Now this figure signifies the present economic dilemma. Since April 1989, Jordan has been making strenuous efforts to adjust its economy as to get round the major crisis which hit it during 1988. The core of the adjustment programme is the wiping out of the budget deficit. That was the main prescription of the IMF which has been so adamant in sticking to this core advice. On these lines, the 1990 budget envisaged a compressed "expanded" deficit of JD 274.8 million which shrunk to an actual deficit of only JD 182.5 million. Now to have to adopt an enlarged deficit of JD 352 in 1991 budget must be agonising to more than one party.

The trouble is that the IMF is insisting on the no-deficit approach at a time when it has become so clear that public expenditures are not compressible any more. And it is not realistic to boost domestic revenues much further because more taxes will undermine production incentives, fuel inflation and possibly destabilise the society (unless this destabilisation is an objective in itself, given Jordan's attitude towards the Gulf crisis). Certainly, oversqueezing leads to breakage. A broken economy can not be adjusted, even with the best "advice" of IMF.

Is it all worth dying for?

By Molly Moore



'During President Bush's Thanksgiving Day visit to Saudi Arabia, a truckload of soldiers drove past television cameras and reporters shouting, "We're not supposed to be here! This isn't our war! Why are we over here?"' Photo shows members of the Fifth Marine division observe a moment of prayer before Thanksgiving dinner.

WITH U.S. TROOPS, Saudi Arabia — A growing number of American troops here are expressing reservations over U.S. involvement in what they see as an internal Arab conflict.

"This is not worth one American losing his life," said Army Lt. Alexander Dumas, dispatched to Saudi Arabia from Fort Riley, Kansas. "If they (Iraqis) were threatening us, I'd be ready to lay down my life in a minute — but this is different."

During President Bush's Thanksgiving Day visit to Saudi Arabia, a truckload of soldiers drove past television cameras and reporters shouting, "We're not supposed to be here! This isn't our war! Why are we over here?"

Some military commanders attribute these doubts to youthful impatience after a tedious four-month wait in the Saudi Arabian desert, to the strains of spartan lifestyles halfway around the globe from their homes, and to mounting frustrations over Saudi restrictions on their free time.

These officers have discouraged their troops from voicing their concerns publicly. For example, a senior officer warned Lt. Dumas that he could "get in trouble" for telling his opinions to a reporter.

But the debate continues nightly among troops in army tanks on the front lines, sailors plying the Red Sea and military truck drivers in rear support bases.

Some troops say it is the waiting, and the political indecision, that have most frustrated them.

"I'm sick of being scared to death, of waiting to see if I'm going to make it home or not," said petty officer Eric Miller, an electronic warfare specialist on the guided missile destroyer USS Sampson in the Red Sea. "I want to get it over with and find out if I'm going to survive or not."

Despite their increasing frustrations, the American troops who are beginning openly to question U.S. involvement in the Middle East crisis say their

personal opinions will not affect their performance if military commanders order them into war against Iraq.

"I sit here thinking about my three kids back home and ask myself, 'is this worth dying for?'" said a senior Marine non-commissioned officer. "And my answer is 'no.' But I'm a Marine, and this is what I'm paid to do."

While some troops who were interviewed "believe what we are doing is right" — in the words of Air Force Staff Sgt. Jose Veloz of Puerto Rico — others said they are becoming impatient with the current standoff and a mission they

feel has not been clearly articulated by political leaders. They said they follow U.S. public opinion polls, fearful of the prospect of facing war without the support of the American people.

Shortly after troops began arriving in Saudi Arabia, the military's psychological operation teams, whose mission is usually directing propaganda against enemy forces, printed small cards entitled "Why we are here," which were distributed to every U.S. military man and woman serving in the region.

On the front side, under a small American flag, are

quotes from President Bush explaining the U.S. role in Saudi Arabia, including the warning, "If history teaches us anything, it is that we must resist aggression, or it will destroy our freedoms." On the back is a list of tips on behaviour, including a warning to "respect the cultural differences of your Saudi hosts" and "do not show any interest in Arab women."

Last Sunday, U.S. military authorities ordered troops throughout the Gulf region on heightened alert after missile activity in Iraq was detected. Reports that the activity was an internal weapons test and

not an actual threat were met with more groans of disappointment than signs of relief among Sgt. Jeffrey Hopkins and other crew members of a weapons maintenance team from Langley Air Force Base, near Hampton, Va.

"We thought we were at war," said Hopkins, whose team maintains missiles and other weaponry for the F-15 fighter planes flying combat air patrol over the Arabian Peninsula. "I could see this situation being over and see myself right there in front of the Christmas tree back home in Virginia."

Commanders, concerned that some of their troops were

growing complacent said the alert was a useful reminder to their forces that they remain in the midst of a volatile situation. "We came here to do battle, not play around," said Air Force Capt. Renee Jolley, whose Langley-based ammunition team was one of the first units dispatched to Saudi Arabia. "But since August, the mental aspects have relaxed."

Some U.S. military commanders say they are becoming concerned that the impatience of their troops over the military mission, combined with simmering resentment over strict limitations on their activities in this Islamic kingdom, could eventually result in serious problems.

Because of these concerns, military authorities have attempted to limit contact between troops and local Saudis, although some troops can be seen in the shops and on the streets of Saudi towns and cities. U.S. authorities are quick to note that no major incidents have been reported thus far involving conflicts between U.S. troops and Saudis.

But some of the almost 200,000 military men and women now in Saudi Arabia are growing more intolerant of the many limitations imposed by the strict religious customs of Islam.

Bowing to "host nation sensitivities," the military does not allow troops to consume liquor, has banned religious Christmas displays in areas where Saudis might see them, has allowed U.S. military mail to be subjected to Saudi censorship regulations and has not allowed entertainment shows that have been traditional morale boosters for American troops in past wars.

"The military has rolled over too much on too many things," said a senior military official. "It should not ask — it should tell the Saudis we are going to have some strictly controlled recreation areas where we are going to serve beer, have shows and let these kids unwind." — The Washington Post.

Mistrust hovers over proposed U.S.-Iraq dialogue

By Alan Eksoer
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States is telling Iraq it will not be dragged into protracted talks when top-level contacts begin this month, leaving Baghdad with a choice of offering a major concession or facing war, analysts said.

The State Department said Iraq and the United States were still haggling over the dates of visits by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to Washington and Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad.

Iraq wants the Baker meeting close to Jan. 15, the deadline date after which the United Nations has authorised the use force to liberate Kuwait if Iraqi troops are not out by then.

But Baker said in a television interview on Sunday he would not be drawn into such a scheduling trap for his trip to Baghdad, which risked making the U.N. deadline meaningless.

"We will not be a party to circumventing the Jan. 15

'The only further concession Saddam could make to change Washington's war posture short of total withdrawal from Kuwait would be to announce and begin implementing a partial withdrawal, said former senior U.S. National Security Council official William Quandt.'

deadline... and we will not be a party to playing games that back up right up to that deadline," he said.

President George Bush suggested the Baker and Aziz mission in an effort to "go the last mile for peace" and ensure that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein understands the threat of it is deadly earnest.

Assessing the stand-off on this issue, analysts said Baghdad was likely to give way over the date rather than risk not holding the talks at all. Saddam's promised release of all foreign hostages clearly showed he was interested in

avoiding war if possible, they said.

But the only further concession Saddam could make to change Washington's posture short of total withdrawal from Kuwait would be to announce and begin implementing a partial withdrawal, said former senior U.S. National Security Council official William Quandt.

"If Baker fails to find any give in the Iraqi position, then we'll have a war and soon," said Quandt, now an analyst at the Brookings Institution. "But if there is a partial with-

drawal, the U.S. military option becomes very difficult."

Some reports have suggested Iraq might try to finesse the withdrawal-or-war threat by leaving all of Kuwait except small but strategic bits of land at its edges — an oil field and two islands commanding access to the Gulf.

Is Saddam likely to offer such a concession? It would be the logical step, but Iraq has paid scant respect to Western

Policy Research Institute and an expert on Iraq. "But my instinct is to say that he won't. He might make small concessions on the margins but not more."

"I have the feeling he will not capitulate. He has a sense of his own personal destiny and a tyrant's disdain for the United States."

But other analysts and diplomats did not share that view. "The Iraqis will try to indi-

'The Iraqis will try to indicate flexibility, keeping the door open to further discussions, perhaps by announcing a partial withdrawal,' said Marvin Feuerwerker of the Washington Institute for Near East Studies.'

expectations so far.

"It makes sense for Iraq to remove its troops," said Daniel Pipes, director of the Foreign

cate flexibility, keeping the door open to further discussions, perhaps by announcing a partial withdrawal," said

Marvin Feuerwerker of the Washington Institute for Near East Studies.

According to former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, Bush's personal prestige was tied closely to achieving a total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. It would be hard to accept anything less.

"I don't see any room for movement on our side and there is none on Saddam's side, that's a recipe for war," said Murphy, who is with the council on foreign relations.

Murphy said the United States was in a strong position. It could answer a partial Iraqi withdrawal by reverting to a strategy primarily relying on sanctions to achieve the remainder of its goals.

Baker and other senior administration officials testified to Congress last week that sanctions, though they were damaging the Iraqi economy, could not alone be relied on to force Iraq to leave Kuwait.

But in the context of a partial withdrawal, the strategy might again become viable.

Benjedid

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi Information Minister Latif Jassem also stressed Monday that Iraq would not withdraw from Kuwait.

Algerian diplomats quoted in reports from Algiers said Benjedid did not have any specific initiative to push for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. "There is no Algerian plan, no Algerian initiative," an unidentified Algerian diplomat was quoted as saying by Reuters. "The president felt the moment had come to go to the region to discuss directly with leaders there to advance the dynamics of peace."

The Arab diplomat quoted by the AP said Benjedid's efforts might lead to a broader meeting later among the leaders of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yemen and Algeria.

Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin said talks at this stage would be on a "bilateral or trilateral basis" before a decision could be made on a full-scale Arab summit.

He said Jordan considered the Algerian effort as extremely important "because it comes after months of escalation towards a military confrontation in the Gulf."

"Now things are moving in the opposite direction," the minister told reporters at the airport. "Algeria has very good experience in solving problems in the region. It has been instrumental in many other initiatives and it succeeded in many ways," he said. "It has also kept channels of communication open with all parties."

Voicing optimism that the endeavours would bear fruit, the minister added that it was premature to judge the outcome of the talks. "Jordan hopes that the talks would produce results as explicitly expressed in His Majesty King Hussein's speech (made on Sunday at the Staff College)," the minister said. "Jordanian diplomacy would focus on the points outlined in His Majesty's address."

In his speech, the King said the time was most opportune for addressing the problems of the Middle East, including the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian question. These problems, the King said, were interrelated. He called for an international conference on the Palestinian problem and also urged Arab countries to launch an inter-Arab dialogue aimed at healing the rift caused by the Gulf crisis.

According to Izzeddin, the Gulf crisis "has been internationalised but basically it's an Arab problem."

Benjedid, current president of the Arab Maghreb Union which also includes Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania, consulted the leaders of all four countries before heading for Jordan.

Benjedid travels to Baghdad Wednesday morning and will also visit Saudi Arabia, Iran and possibly Oman and Syria.

Algerian officials said he hoped to build on peace prospects brightened by Iraq's release of foreigners and plans for talks between Iraq and the United States.

Iraq faces a Jan. 15 deadline from the U.N. Security Council to withdraw from Kuwait or face attack by U.S.-led forces massed in the Gulf.

Algeria has a long history of well-timed mediation in Middle East conflicts and was instrumental in arranging the release of U.S. hostages held by Iran after the 1979 revolution.

It has maintained good ties with all parties to the Gulf conflict, condemning both Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the deployment of foreign troops in the region.

Algeria also opposes the inclusion of food in an international trade embargo against Iraq and supports Baghdad's demand for linkage between the Gulf and Palestinian crisis.

"We are going to say what we think. International legitimacy must be respected. And we believe there is a link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue," said an Algerian diplomat quoted by Reuters.

"War would be a veritable catastrophe for the Arabs. We must at all costs avoid this catastrophe."

Gulf force

(Continued from page 1)

back us up to that deadline." He proposed going to Baghdad to see President Saddam Hussein either Dec. 20, 21 or 22 or on Jan. 3.

At Baker's Houston meeting with Shevardnadze, a senior Soviet official said, "the foreign minister reiterated his support, his understanding of that schedule."

The Soviets do not plan to send an emissary to Baghdad "for the time being," the Soviet official said. The top Soviet expert on the Gulf, Yevgeny Primakov, has made two previous trips to the Iraqi capital for talks with Saddam.

This official spoke to reporters after the Baker-Shevardnadze meeting on condition that he not be identified. A U.S. official also briefed reporters on the same condition.

The U.S. official said the Iraqi government had not responded to Baker's rejection of the Jan. 12 proposal, though Iraq's ambassador has said there should be no problem in arranging a suitable date for Baker to visit Baghdad.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz blamed Washington for "making a fuss... a problem" about when the two sides should meet for talks.

In an interview with Cable News Network in Baghdad, Aziz said dates had not been set for his meeting with Bush or Baker's meeting with Saddam "because in Washington they are making a fuss about it, a problem."

"It is not for (because of) us," Aziz said. "What we are saying now is that let us say what time is convenient for the president to receive me in Washington, and we will say what time is convenient for our president to receive Mr. Baker in Baghdad and that's fair."

Azziz called the U.N. resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq as "unjust."

"We do not recognise the January 15th... simply, we do not recognise it," he said.

He said his country's decision to release all Westerners was viewed by the world "as a step towards easing the tension and creating a better atmosphere."

"But the amazing thing is the reaction of the officials of the administration in Washington... one of them is what the president said — that that will make it easier for him if he decides to go to war," said Aziz.

In other Gulf developments: — A British arms expert dismissed American warnings ab-

out Iraq's nuclear capability as propaganda, saying Baghdad was at least five years away from having nuclear bombs.

Former nuclear physicist Frank Barnaby said Iraq had 12.5 kilos of enriched uranium — one of the raw materials for nuclear bombs — but would need five to 10 years to produce proper nuclear devices.

"The stories released recently are more propaganda than technical reality," he said, referring to U.S. government claims, at a meeting of the Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism.

— Iraq has a chance to leave Kuwait peacefully and should take it, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

Hurd told parliament the Jan. 15 deadline set by the Security Council as "not a call to arms or a timetable for military action."

"It is a pause of good will... an idea of the Soviet government, an opportunity for Saddam Hussein to leave peacefully, an opportunity we hope he will take," Hurd said.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun said every effort should be made to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis "so long as there is even a shred of hope."

Nablus

(Continued from page 1)

residents remained under a curfew imposed after the fatal explosion Sunday night.

Most of the town was also declared a closed military area, barring outsiders from entering and making it impossible to check the extent of new barricades.

On Monday, the army began posting snipers to shoot Palestinian stone throwers. At least four Palestinians were shot and wounded in ambushes as they hurried back to their homes in the West Bank, the army said.

An army statement said the shootings were part of an "increased special action against stone-throwing on civilian and army vehicles."

In a new campaign against the Palestinian uprising, the army said Tuesday it is pressing for tougher sentences for Palestinian stone-throwers who in the past have been jailed from six months to 10 years.

PLO

(Continued from page 1)

Arab-Israeli conflict is the mother of all conflicts in the Middle East... if the Palestinian question is not solved, there will not be solutions for any other conflict in the zone," he said.

Kaddoumi accused the United States of trying to act like an "international policeman" and threatening some members of the U.N. Security Council while offering money to others to achieve its objectives.

U.N. vote

(Continued from page 1)

The main focus of the draft is on steps to ensure protection for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

It would welcome the idea of a meeting of the 164 signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

It would also request Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to monitor the situation in the territories, using U.N. personnel already stationed there and appointing any necessary U.N. staff.

Jordanian industry studies ways to take charge into free market policy

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Chamber of Industry, in the wake of the Gulf crisis, proposed several ideas aimed at activating the Kingdom's economy and reshaping local industry by adopting a free market economy policy. Special emphasis was placed on Aqaba Port and the need to initiate its transition into a free zone for the Middle East region.

A leading advisor to the chamber has called for immediate action to confront the needs of the industry sector in Jordan in a manner which would address the long-term as well as the short-term objectives of the country. He also stressed the need to ensure Jordan's healthy survival of the economic deterioration in the country since Jordan applied a trade embargo on Iraq in compliance with United Nations resolutions in that regard.

Although financial compensation has been promised to Jordan, the amounts received so far are not sufficient to cover the Kingdom's expenses and maintain the quality of life, Ali Dajani told the Jordan Times in an interview. "The help we are getting is coming in drips and not flowing in a manner that will really support the economy."

Dajani sees that the Kingdom is maintaining a status quo but one which could also flip either way. "It is time for us to stop analysing how Jordan has suffered and push all sorts of ideas that could enable self-sufficiency," Dajani said.

He added that positive signs were already showing with the loosening of ship harassment that caused many industries to loose large supplies of imported raw materials and foreign currency causing the close down of some industries.

"There are more goods flowing through the port of Aqaba now than there were in last month for example."

Specialists at the Chamber of Industry agree with Dajani saying that with the resumption of the shipping, manufacturers will be able to continue production at least to cover the requirements of the local markets.

"There are many things that should be thought of now," Dajani pointed out. "Things that should be done right now and things that should be thought of in the long-term."

He explained that the consequences of delaying proper action to boost the industry and the national economy would lead to a "stagnation" of efforts. "Not exploiting or using our capabilities would lead to more unemployment, a slide in the living standards as well as increased dependency to other countries."

Dajani believes that even if Jordan could never be an industrial country itself, Jordan has the potential to become the centre of this region in terms of services, training and small scale industrial activities.

Dajani also believes that time should be taken to look at the errors of the past and improve on them. He is playing around with some recommendations that have brought positive reactions from the Chamber of Industry. "If the threat of war recedes, we have to think about reshaping the economy and adapting it to the free market economy in a stronger thrust," Dajani told the Jordan Times. The transitional stage is the perfect time in which to rearrange priorities and consider future steps, he added.

Industrialist reacted positively to the idea saying that

Agaba into a free zone will also benefit the industries. Dajani believes that a sure way to help Jordanian industries is to implement a programme to encourage the establishment of small and medium industries. This would combat unemployment and reduce the rate of imports as well as increase local production. "I think we should compile at least 100 different types of small industries, prepare project files and launch a lease industry as a package."

Asked about whether these recommendations are realistic, he explained many experts see it as a credible solution to Jordan's economic setback. "However, with our education expanding and vocational training we should be able to do more," they said, citing an example: the clothes industry for instance does not have other centres to complement it. "If there were teaching centres to learn the practical and theoretical work employees could go into the factory knowing what they are doing and not learning through experience," Dajani asserted.

Many experts believe that now is the right time to pursue and create such institutions which could serve as a regional example, turning the economy into a self sustaining one. One specialist who preferred anonymity suggested that "the Jordanian people are waiting for miracles to happen, and not pushing for improvement."

'Dajani believes that time should be taken to look at the errors of the past and improve on them. "If the threat of war recedes, we have to think about reshaping the economy and adapting it to the free market economy in a stronger thrust."

One of the seemingly necessary options is to turn Aqaba Port into a free zone and a free market. "We should prepare all the necessary legislative and administrative measures to achieve this objective, as Aqaba could be turned into a central market in the region serving inter-regional activities." The long- and short-term benefits are many, such as services, transit freight, occupancy, transport, employment and international trade, as well as demand for storage and offices.

While the idea of turning

small industries can be established throughout the country since it does not require large capital. "Many materials that are imported can easily be made here," Dajani said. He added that bridges could also be created between the sectors of the economy and the sub-sectors of the industry.

Another idea that was put forward that could help Jordan pull out from its difficulty is known as import management. "When we make a survey of the requirements of the economy and agriculture and col-

lect the materials suitable for import as well as try to bring in such materials, in bulk, in cooperation with the manufacturer," according to Dajani.

Little mosque raises big questions in Hindu India

By Ruth Pitchford
Reuters

LUCKNOW, India — A little mosque filled with Hindu images has raised a big question in the hearts of many Indians.

Did the country's founding fathers go too far 43 years ago when they committed independent India to secularism? "I think we're passing through a very, very critical period," said philosophy lecturer Roop Rekha Verma. "Nothing is being discussed but this."

Verma has made herself unpopular in Lucknow, capital of north India's Uttar Pradesh State, by championing secularism at a time when Hindu militants are winning widespread sympathy for their campaign to replace the mosque in the nearby sacred city of Ayodhya with a temple.

In the past 13 months, more than 1,300 people have died across India in Hindu-Muslim riots fuelled by the campaign.

More than 100 million of India's 850 million people are Muslims, whose families stayed when Pakistan was carved out of the British Raj on independence in 1947 as an Islamic state.

Up to 500,000 people died at partition, many of them refugees slaughtered in trains heading for the new frontier.

Last week witnesses said a Hindu crowd stopped a Lucknow-Delhi train and killed four passengers, identified by

their Muslim names on the seat reservation lists posted outside. It was a rare departure for independent India, where Hindu-Muslim violence is usually fairly spontaneous, sparked by local rivalries over politics, land, money or sex.

The temple campaign is spearheaded by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), the world Hindu organisation. It says the Ayodhya Mosque, already taken over for Hindu worship, was built by Muslim invaders on the birthplace of a Hindu deity, Lord Rama.

Some Indians say the VHP view of history has been nurtured by even more militant groups. The secularists say these groups teach history, too. Partition becomes a tale of Muslim treachery and Lord Rama, a god-king, becomes a once and future vehicle of Hindu national glory.

The ground is fertile. Uneven development has brought economic frustration and left 60 per cent of Indians illiterate.

Verma blames both Hindu and Muslim leaders, saying ignorance and intolerance earn them above all, power over minds.

Last month the government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh fell because he fought the Hindu militants. Without secularism, he said "the temple of mother India will be reduced to ashes."

Many educated Indians dis-

agree. "We should have this temple. The Muslims have had things their way for too long," said a Bombay architect during a train journey in what is becoming an increasingly typical comment.

Hindus like retired civil servant Dharm Singh Rawat say these are the growing pains of a young democracy in an old civilisation colonised for 700 years, first by Muslims, then by British.

Rawat, famous in Lucknow for his one-man crusade against corruption and Hindu bias in the bureaucracy, now teaches literacy. He said only a vocal urban minority backed the militants.

A senior civil servant agreed, noting the VHP could only summon 500,000 people to Ayodhya at the height of the campaign. "In the same of religion, you can get a million people spontaneously, even in small places in India," he said.

"I might have accepted the argument that people had become fundamentalist or anti-Muslim if 500,000 had turned up."

But both he and Rawat said the assertion of Hindu rights was now a daily debate for urban Indians.

Hinduism proclaims religious tolerance, embracing the Prophet Mohammed and Jesus Christ among many incarnations of an overall divinity. But in Ayodhya, a VHP



Indian riot police keep close control over more than 2,000 Hindu fundamentalists who rolled through the streets of New Delhi lately calling for the building of a Hindu temple in Ayodhya after tearing down an ancient mosque. volunteer yelled to passing journalists: "butcher a Muslim and we will run to the temple singing 'hail lord Rama.'"

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

German clubs have uphill task in UEFA Cup 3rd round

LONDON (R) — Lothar Matthaeus and Rudi Voeller go into their UEFA Cup third round soccer ties Wednesday with rather more confidence than their fellow Germans.

Matthaeus's Internazionale Milan, who take a 3-0 first leg lead to Partizan Belgrade of Yugoslavia, are in great form after going top in Italy Sunday with a 5-1 win at Cesena.

Voeller's Roma will be well rested after rain forced the postponement of their league tie at the weekend but the Italians have little to fear after their first leg against Bordeaux.

They won that 5-0 with a hat-trick from Voeller.

But the three German clubs in action have an uphill task after first leg ties in which only one of them managed to score a goal — and that was put in accidentally by an Italian.

Their best of a quarter-final place looks like Borussia Dortmund, who are at home after losing the first leg in Belgium 1-0 to 1990 Cup Winners' Cup finalists Anderlecht.

"Dortmund have to attack.

They have to make up for the one goal deficit," said Anderlecht's Dutch international defender Graeme Rutjes, who is not fully fit but who will play.

Cologne, the 1986 UEFA Cup finalists, must score in Italy against Atalanta after drawing their home leg 1-1.

Atalanta, whose players scored both goals in that match, have Argentine World Cup striker Claudio Caniggia, who broke his arm in a UEFA match two months ago, back in action.

But they will be without Swedish captain Glenn Strömberg, who is suspended after receiving two yellow cards.

Inter, who beat Partizan on the way to winning the 1964 European Cup, will probably be without Italy defender Riccardo Ferri, who has a pulled knee ligament, and German World Cup defender Andreas Brehme who is also injured.

Giuseppe Baresi, older brother of AC Milan's better-known captain Franco, is expected to stand in for Ferri.

Bayer Leverkusen, the 1988 UEFA champions, needed at

least three goals at home to Brøndby of Denmark Tuesday.

Monaco of France were playing Torpedo Moscow Tuesday, with the Soviets carrying a 2-1 lead from their home leg.

While three of Italy's four teams look like favourites to go through to the last eight, Bologna are the exception.

They were beaten 3-0 away by unimpressive Austrian club Admira Wacker in a first leg marred by crowd trouble and have won only twice in 12 domestic league games this season.

In their latest match Sunday, Bologna set an Italian soccer record by having a player sent off just 10 seconds after he had come on and before he had touched the ball.

Vitesse Arnhem, the only Dutch left in the three European competitions, look equally certain of going out after losing 2-0 at home to Sporting Lisbon of Portugal.

Despite a 3-0 first leg deficit against one of European soccer's strongest sides, Partizan Belgrade still believe they can pull off a miracle and put Interna-

zionale Milan out of the UEFA Cup.

"We are certainly not giving up," said Predrag Mijatovic, Partizan's midfielder and top player. "We have nothing to lose and we firmly believe we can score at least three goals."

During the match against Cesena they lost Italy's World Cup defender Riccardo Ferri, who pulled a knee ligament and also took a nasty knock on the head in a clash with a team mate.

Ferri is a doubtful starter in Belgrade, compounding Inter's difficulties at the back where they are already without injured German international Andreas Brehme and suspended Antonio Pagamin.

"We were quite lucky in the first match since Partizan missed at least two clear chances," Matthaeus said. "Of course, we have an enormous advantage but we have to be very careful not to allow any surprises."

Partizan also notched and away win in the domestic league, beating Velez Mostar 1-0, but are trailing all-conquering city rivals Red Star four points.



Lothar Matthaeus

Irish horse racing suffers seesaw season

DUBLIN (R) — British challengers plundered every Irish classic horse race in 1990 but, amid all the doom and gloom, Irish raiders carried off three of the richest prizes in the United States.

In a year when the international breeding industry was hit hard by the Gulf crisis, a small-time woman breaker in the depths of the Irish countryside produced two 1990 champions — Salsabil and Sauge.

Jim Bolger history as Ireland's most successful trainer, defeating J.J. Parkinson's record of 134 winners that had stood since 1923, and Lester Pigott when 54 showed that he and tipperary wizard Vicent O'Brien still have the magic touch.

But perhaps most importantly of all for the future of an industry that could be hit by the chill winds of recession, the government gave almost 10 million pounds (\$17 million) in aid to horse racing, the great Irish sporting passion.

The Irish could again hold their heads up high after trooping en masse to the Cheltenham Jumping Festival where they bet as if there is no tomorrow.

They were rewarded with two big race winners after a 1989 whitewash.

Racing journalist Raymond Smith, reflecting on a gloomy classic year when the home team were defeated five times over, commented realistically: "We will resist the invaders when we have the horses to do so. No use then in wasting time crying aloud about what could and should be done."

But his racing annual review of a season does highlight an unusual hat-trick that gave Irish breeders a big boost — Gravel won the rich Kentucky duelling grounds hurdle. Go And Go landed the Belmont Stakes Classic and Royal Academy captured the Breeders' Cup Mile.

It was the last victory that had commentators reaching for their superlatives.

Pigott, fresh out of retirement and riding like a demon possessed, got up by a neck to win one of the richest prizes of

the year in international racing.

It was his sixth win in six rides for O'Brien, recalling their glory days of the 1960s and 1970s with such stars as Sir Ivor, Nijinsky, and Alleged. Dreams could come true again in 1991 if the partnership is renewed.

Michael Kinane may have relinquished his jockey's title to Christy Roche but relished his new nickname as "Mr. big race" with wins in the English 2,000 Guineas, the Belmont Stakes, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and the Cartier Million.

Yearling prices nosedived at the flagships sales in Ireland but at least Mrs. Pat O'Kelly at Kildarn Stud survived the carnage with the English St Leger victories of Smurge and the triple classic triumph of brilliant filly Salsabil.

Irish stallion Sadler's Wells, responsible in successive seasons of Derby winners Old Vic and Salsabil, could now emerge as one of the most influential sires in the world after the demise of his own inimitable father, Northern Dancer.

Honolulu places 1st World Cup bid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Honolulu became the first city to formally bid for games during the 1991 World Cup when it sent the organising committee a \$60,000 check along with an application for three first-round matches.

The bid asked for three first-round games for Aloha Stadium, which seats 50,000 for football. It also asks to be awarded the World Cup qualifying draw, set for December 1991.

A total of 32 cities have expressed interest in playing host to the World Cup's 52 matches and as many as 12 will be selected.

French Soccer Federation to discuss strike threat

By Reuters

SOCCER officials, players and club bosses meet Friday hoping to avert what would be the first strike to hit French soccer in nearly 20 years.

The Union of French Soccer Professionals (UNFP) made the strike threat Sunday after soccer authorities proposed cost-cutting measures aimed at ending a financial scandal that has rocked the sport.

"We have decided to stage a meeting of our board of directors on Jan. 7 to examine the moves we intend to adopt, including a strike in the last three rounds of the first and second division leagues (in May)" the UNFP said.

The French Football Federation, which includes players and club bosses, will discuss the strike threat and the wider problems facing French soccer in a meeting Friday.

French footballers have been on strike only once before: in protest against new contract regulations in 1972.

One of the proposals made last week by the league and club chairmen was for the number of professional players to be limited to 19 per club in the first division and 15 in the second.

The league also proposed that clubs with financial problems should not be allowed to sign new players and asked for get-out clauses in contracts to be suppressed.

"This would result in 200 players going unemployed at the end of the season," UNFP President Philippe Plat said.

French soccer is reeling after

12 people were charged last month following police inquiries at first division clubs Toulon, Bordeaux and Marseille.

In Spain, league leaders Barcelona were waiting Tuesday to hear the fate of their leading goalscorer, Bulgarian Kristo Stoichkov, and coach Johan Cruyff, both sent off in last week's Supercup first-leg defeat against Real Madrid.

Stoichkov stamped on the referee's foot after being shown the red card for dissent and is expected to be banned for several months. Whatever the decision he will miss the Supercup second leg in Madrid Wednesday.

"He lost his temper a bit. I think the punishment is going to be tough," said Real Madrid's Emilio Butragueno.

Madrid's Mexican marksman Hugo Sanchez could be disciplined for making an obscene gesture at the Camp Nou crowd during last week's game against Tenerife.

Another star foreigner, Atletico Madrid's Austrian forward Gerhard Rodax, was under fire for a disappointing performance in the team's 1-0 away win to Cadiz at the weekend.

Rodax was signed last May after becoming the Austrian League's top marksman but has failed to repeat his Spanish crowds.

"Austrian football is completely different to Spanish football, and because of that I think Rodax's problem is a question of time," said Atletico's Yugoslav coach Tomislav Ivic.

Matthaeus leads Inter to league top

MILAN (AP) — After capturing the ultimate team prize, the World Cup, German midfielder Lothar Matthaeus may cap a spectacular year with one of the top individual honours.

With the announcement expected later this week, Matthaeus is the favourite to be awarded the Golden Ball as Europe's best soccer player of the year.

To assure his already near certain award, Matthaeus dominated Sunday in Internazionale of Milan's 5-1 rout of Cesena in the Italian League, which gave Inter to sole possession of first place.

Matthaeus, who combines a restless midfield action with scoring ability, scored Inter's second goal with a hard shot on a free kick and led the most dangerous attacks of his team.

"Matthaeus fires a missile on a free kick to prove he deserves the golden ball," wrote Italy's largest sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport in a frontpage headline Monday.

Dutch striker Marco van Basten of AC Milan own the Golden Ball last year.

Italian soccer commentators stressed that Matthaeus was the key player in West Germany's victorious World Cup campaign this past summer and in Inter's surge in the Italian League.

"He is a true leader," commented Rome's sports daily Corriere dello Sport.

Milan's widely-circulated daily

Corriere Della Sera called Matthaeus "the wonderful, unstoppable Lothar."

Sunday's goal in Cesena gave Matthaeus seven and a share of the league scoring lead with four young Italian talents.

Matthaeus said he was not seeking individual glory but team success.

"I am scoring goals to help Inter win the Italian title, not to earn the title of top league striker. You can achieve important results, such as the Golden Ball and the World Cup, only if get full support from the teammates. Soccer is not a one-player affair," he said Monday.

Matthaeus forms one-third of Inter's German trio, joining compatriots Jurgen Klinsmann and Andreas Brehme, who are all teammates on the German national squad.

They have been instrumental to Inter's Italian title victory in 1989 and to this season's impressive pace.

Matthaeus said that he and his German teammates "have learned a lot by playing in the most difficult world league."

"I am not a top class player like Maradona," Matthaeus said on his arrival in Italy in 1989.

However, many observers believe that he has overshadowed Maradona by now.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to come to a better understanding with allies and partners so take the opportunity to get in touch with anyone who you haven't had contact with recently.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to accept the delays that arise where both family and vocational matters are concerned in a philosophical fashion.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you are able to get out of that rut and plan how you and your allies are going to do routines in the days ahead and with more efficiency.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find it imperative that you do spend your time eliminating whatever has been standing in the way of your progress for the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Thinking over what is best for you on social contacts for the coming days can find you concentrating upon those that can help you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you are able to find the means by which to get the work done that requires your most careful attention and you have some bonus if you go for it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get after the delights that mean the most to you and join with friends and mate in the various and

sundry recreations that bring you happiness.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have in mind that can please and delight your family and also show higher-ups that you are a conscientious person will be great now.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you have in mind that necessitates making some changes in the little affairs of everyday living so you have more security is fine now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the day to concentrate upon your own financial arrangements as well as those that have to do with your relations with others.

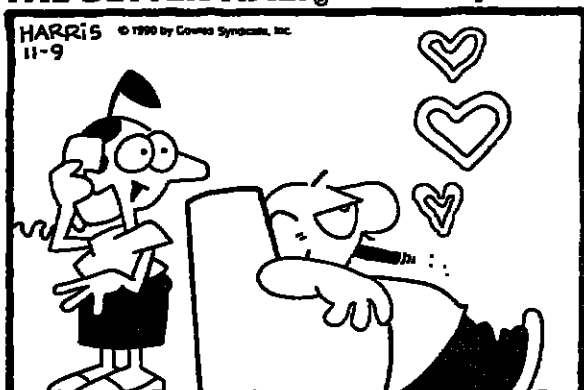
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now find that you are one who does understand and value what both you and your partners want so make a special plan to others along.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Show that you are able to persist long and hard at whatever you have agreed to do and go to those who have any sort of experience you need.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make a point to be with friends and those who attract you and by some sort of entertainment, amusement or interest to deepen the bond of all.

THE BETTER HALF.

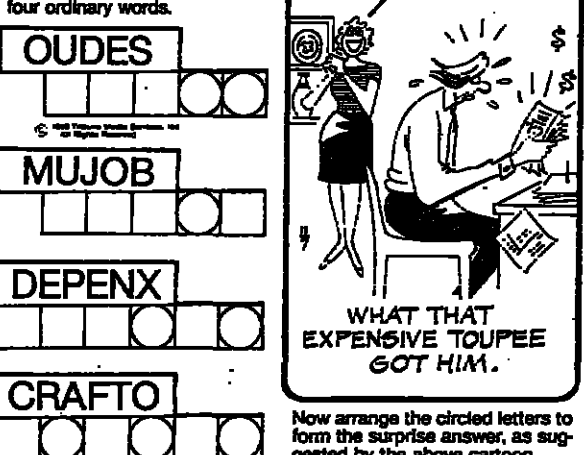
By Harris



"I've got to go — I think Stanley has something on his mind!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

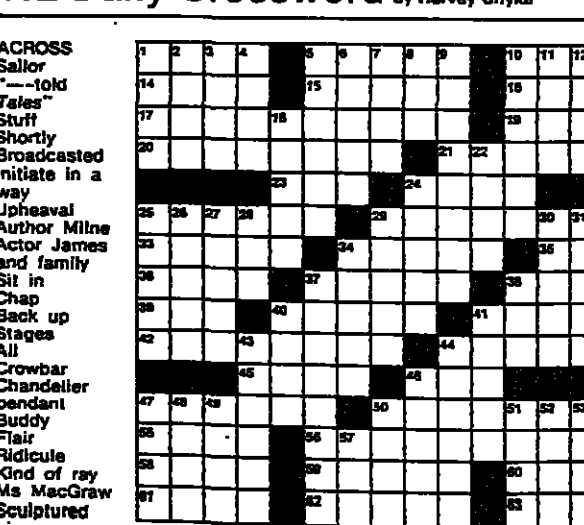


Answer here: IN OVER HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles: FUDGE AGILE BUCKLE CRAYON
Answer: What happens when an automobile loses its lock together they can't move? — GRIDLOCK

The Daily Crossword

by Harvey Chyka



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1. Actor | 2. "Toks" | 3. "Toks" | 4. "Toks" | 5. "Toks" | 6. "Toks" | 7. "Toks" | 8. "Toks" | 9. "Toks" | 10. "Toks" | 11. "Toks" | 12. "Toks" | 13. "Toks" | 14. "Toks" | 15. "Toks" | 16. "Toks" | 17. "Toks" | 18. "Toks" | 19. "Toks" | 20. "Toks" | 21. "Toks" | 22. "Toks" | 23. "Toks" | 24. "Toks" | 25. "Toks" | 26. "Toks" | 27. "Toks" | 28. "Toks" | 29. "Toks" | 30. "Toks" | 31. "Toks" | 32. "Toks" | 33. "Toks" | 34. "Toks" | 35. "Toks" | 36. "Toks" | 37. "Toks" | 38. "Toks" | 39. "Toks" | 40. "Toks" | 41. "Toks" |
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Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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A ROYAL SACRIFICE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 3 2
♥ 9 5
♦ 8 7 6 5
♣ 9 5 4 3

WEST
♠ K 8 4
♥ A Q 8 2
♦ 9 4 3
♣ Q 10 6

EAST
♠ J 10 6 3
♥ K J 10 2
♦ J 8 7 2
♣ A

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠. An avoidance play at bridge is much like the punt in football. In the latter, you turn over the ball to the enemy in what you hope will be good field position for your team. In the former, you try to surrender a trick to the player who can't hurt you.

North-South conducted a sound, old-fashioned auction. Since as little as the jack of hearts in partner's hand, or a lucky opening lead, could be enough for 10 tricks, South did

not feel around with his reid.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand and counted nine tricks. The fulfilling trick could come from either a heart ruff in dummy or a successful trump finesse, if the opponents were forced to lead the suit. To prevent the ruff, that's what they had to do, so at trick two declarer exited with a low heart. East won and shifted to a trump.

Declarer tried the finesse (going up with the ace would have been no better). West won and returned a trump, and eventually South had to surrender two more heart tricks — down one.

Better is to lead the king of hearts at trick two, in the hope of forcing West to win. If that player does so, and has only a doubleton trump, the defenders cannot lead spades without sacrificing their trump trick. As the cards lie, though, West can win and exit safely with a trump. But when declarer wins and leads another heart, the defenders are caught in an untenable position. If East is allowed to win the trick, declarer will get to ruff a heart, since East is out of trumps. And if West wins, he faces a choice of losing options — either sacrifice his trump trick or allow declarer to ruff a heart. Both lines yield the contract.

Economy

U.S. official says Aqaba blockade may be eased

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters
AMMAN — A senior U.S. defence official has said Washington would consider reducing checks on ships sailing to Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba, once Iraq's main sea lifeline, a Jordanian official said Tuesday.
Mamdouh Abu Hassan, president of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, told Reuters U.S. Assistant Defence Secretary Henry Rowen also said intensive searches of ships carrying imports for Jordan would be scaled down once the U.N. ban monitoring Jordan's eastern borders with Iraq.
Amman, Baghdad's main trading partner until the invasion of Kuwait, is adhering to U.N. sanctions against Iraq and will lose up to \$1.5 billion in 1990 because of the embargo. Before the Kuwait crisis, almost 80 per cent of traffic through Aqaba was to or from Iraq.
U.S. navy patrols stationed at the Tiran Straits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba have been inspecting cargo vessels heading into the strait to detect cargo bound for Iraq.
They have turned back at least 17 ships and delayed dozens by lengthy searches which made some shipping companies turn back and unload at nearby ports in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.
Abu Hassan said Rowen told a meeting of Jordanian shippers, industrialists and businessmen that Washington would consider easing its restrictions after listening to their complaints about the costs of the embargo to Jordan.
"He promised to study reducing the restrictions on vessels bound for Aqaba...and said curbs on ships loaded with imports would be eased once a U.N. team began work at the border," Abu Hassan said.
The United Nations has agreed to Jordan's request to send a team to monitor overland traffic between Jordan and Iraq passing through the eastern desert frontier of Ruweisah. But so far no U.N. official has appeared at the border.
A U.S. embassy spokesman, commenting on Rowen's meeting, said there had been no change in U.S. policy but "we are constantly looking at alternatives to ease the burden on Jordan's economy."
Jordan's exports, mainly potash and phosphates, have been hard hit because of the U.S. navy inspection and higher insurance premiums.
Many factories are half-idle because of shortages of imported raw materials and spare parts. Prices of some luxury consumer goods have shot up and many others are disappearing from shelves.
Jordan has banned all cargo to and from Iraq but is still importing Iraqi crude oil which it gets at cheap prices in settlement of a Gulf war debt.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, December 11, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	659.0	663.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	500.7	503.7
Pound Sterling	1282.8	1290.5	Dutch guilder	397.4	399.8
Deutschemark	448.6	451.3	Swedish crown	118.8	119.5
Swiss franc	523.7	526.8	Italian lira (for 100)	59.4	59.8
French franc	131.9	132.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	216.2	217.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.9450/60	U.S. dollar	1.1585/95
One U.S. dollar	1.4718/25	Canadian dollar	1.6618/28
	1.2581/88	Deutschemark	30.49/54
	4.9980/5.0030	Dutch guilders	111.0/111
	131.85/95	Swiss francs	5.5600/50
	5.7800/50	Belgian francs	5.6620/70
	5.6620/70	French francs	74.50/375.00
		Italian lire	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

One ounce of gold 74.50/375.00

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher after the head of Japan's economic planning agency said high interest rates could hurt the economy. The Nikkei Index closed up 172.30 at 23,956.97.

SYDNEY — Shares ended a listless day slightly lower. The All Ordinaries Index closed 4.0 down at 1321.6.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong shares ended marginally easier in quiet trade. The Hang Seng closed 4.51 points down at 3,144.62.

SINGAPORE — Institutional investors stayed on the sidelines. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 3.17 points to 1,176.7.

BOMBAY — The Bombay stock exchange index fell 18.10 points to 1,196.35. "Marketmen are getting frustrated waiting to hear the government's thinking on key economic issues," said broker Vallabh Bhansali.

FRANKFURT — German shares ended 0.8 per cent below Monday's closing levels but above the day's lows. The Dax index closed 12.12 points lower at 1,492.68, above its day's low of 1,486.31.

ZURICH — The SPI index lost 4.2 points to 924.4 in directionless trade. "The market is dead and it will probably stay that way for the remainder of the year," a trader commented.

PARIS — A modest downward correction continued after a 5.3 per cent rise last week. The CAC 40 index lost 9.47 points to 1,665.54. "The market remains very cautious in the face of a possible recession in the United States and continued uncertainty in the Gulf," a dealer said.

LONDON — Shares in privatised electricity companies showed healthy premiums over Monday's issue prices. Other stocks sagged on gloom about the British economy. The FTSE Index lost 17.4 to 2,165.1.

NEW YORK — The weak economy remained a worry. At 1709 GMT the Dow Jones Industrials were down 9.91 to 2,586.88.

CIA reports rise in Third World debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — Third World countries' foreign debt rose to \$1.096 trillion this year, up from \$1.051 trillion last year and from \$786 billion in 1981, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has reported.
The figure does not include the Soviet Union, China and other countries either still under communist rule or emerging from it, such as those in eastern Europe. They add at least another \$210 billion, according to earlier estimates by the CIA itself and the World Bank.
The money is owed to more affluent governments including the United States, Japan and West Germany, to their private commercial banks and to inter-governmental bodies like the World Bank. Another \$29 billion owed to the International Monetary Fund is listed separately.
Although the CIA reported a rise of \$15 billion in the debt since last year, it showed a drop in payments: To \$122 billion from the \$126 billion of 1989.
For the debtors the payment level is more important than debt itself, since it is the amount of hard cash they are expected to raise from what they can earn by selling their goods and from what they can borrow in new loans.
Each dollar they save on payments to their creditors is a dollar they can spend on new foreign goods. They can use foreign goods either to raise their people's living standards or to invest in new equipment that will produce more goods and jobs for their rapidly rising work force.
The CIA handbook, "Trends in LDC External Debt, 1981-90," is dated November but was made available this week. It includes information available on Sept. 1, compiled from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris and the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland.
"LDC" stands for "less developed countries."
The book, labelled "a reference aid," consists only of tables and does not explain the rise and fall of figures.
Of the 113 countries listed, the heaviest debt is reported for Brazil: \$115.311 billion, up from \$112.15 billion in 1989. In addition, Brazil owes about \$8 billion in back interest. The CIA does not include such arrears in its figures. They show Brazil as paying \$10.1 billion on its debt this year, compared with \$11.9 billion last year and \$16.1 billion the year before.
The new government of President Fernando Collor de Mello is deep in negotiations with private banks, to which it owes the bulk of its debt. They are urging at least some payments on the back interest.
Mexico's debt of \$88.02 billion is the second largest, reduced under the plan of U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady. Last year it was \$90.789 billion. Mexico's payments have also dropped due to the new arrangement, to \$10.06 billion this year from last year's \$13.101 billion.

Oil ministers face uncertain outlook because of Gulf crisis

VIENNA (R) — OPEC oil ministers gathering for talks beginning Wednesday face conflicting problems — the must produce at full capacity until the Gulf crisis ends, yet future demand for oil is expected to drop sharply.
The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), whose ministers are meeting in Vienna this week, suspended output quotas in August to help the world absorb the loss of more than four million barrels a day of Kuwaiti and Iraqi exports.
OPEC output is running at around 23 million barrels per day (b/d), about 500,000 more than it would have been under quotas agreed in July.
Now there are fears the market has too much oil.
And until the Gulf crisis ends, OPEC will not know the state of Iraq's and Kuwait's oil industries or how to get them back into a quota system. The United Nations Security Council has set a Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait.
The oil producers are approaching a steep two to three million b/d drop in demand, but cannot apply the brakes to production yet.
Nigerian Oil Minister Jibril Aminu told reporters the suspension of output quotas "will be necessary so long as the crisis lasts."
Venezuela's Oil Minister Celestino Armas said: "Really I don't think we have many... substantial matters to discuss."
Gulf industry sources think Iraq could get back to an output capacity above three million b/d within five months of the United Nations embargo on its oil being lifted, if the crisis is settled peacefully.
Industry sources foresee Kuwait taking a year before it can pump at 1.5 million b/d, which is still more than 500,000 b/d less than its pre-invasion capacity.
Iraq is currently producing around 450,000 b/d and Kuwait 100,000 b/d.
Saudi Arabia, which has raised its output by around three million b/d since August to 8.2 million b/d, is ready to plough in more cash to lift its capacity above 10 million b/d if the crisis worsens.
A ministerial monitoring committee including all 13 members Wednesday will review the weak outlook for oil demand in the second and third quarters.
OPEC's full conference starts Thursday and is expected to last one or two days.
The oil producers' group will be eager to show the market that it can act quickly to brake any precipitous price fall.
OPEC Secretary-General Sabroto may try to have a monitoring committee meeting in February written into the conference's concluding resolutions.

UAE keeps revenues secret in 1990 budget

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) kept its 1990 federal budget spending unchanged at 14.65 billion dirhams (\$3.96 billion) from last year but failed to disclose its revenues.
The UAE in the past three years had delayed announcing its federal budget till the end of the fiscal year due to uncertainty over oil income.
The federal cabinet, formed last month, met for the first time Monday to approve budget spending. But it did not disclose revenues, vital to calculate any deficit.
Budget revenues in 1989 stood at 12.84 billion dirhams (\$3.47 billion).
It was the first time the UAE had kept its revenues secret and there was no official explanation.
But a UAE finance official, who declined to be identified, said keeping revenues secret was probably due to a sharp increase in oil revenues after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait which sent prices soaring.
"It seems the government does not want to reveal how much it benefited from the Gulf crisis or how much it will give to the foreign troops or states affected by the Gulf crisis," he said.
The UAE, along with Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf states, had pledged to contribute financially to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf and donate funds to countries hard hit by the United Nations trade ban on Iraq.
UAE central bank governor Abdul Malik Al Hamar said last month the contributions to multinational forces and other states would offset the increase in oil income.
Oil revenues account for more than 90 per cent of the UAE's income.
UAE Planning Minister Humaid bin Ahmad Al Mualla said last week revenues would jump to 57 billion dirhams (\$15.4 billion) in 1990, from 39 billion (\$10.5 billion).
The UAE federal budget started to show a deficit after oil prices began falling in 1982. The government has introduced austerity measures and raised fees it charges for services.
The 1990 budget contained no major projects, the financial official said.

Wellington suspends live sheep exports to Riyadh

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand has suspended controversial shipments of live sheep to Saudi Arabia after Riyadh rejected a batch of 66,000 animals. Agriculture Minister John Falloon said Tuesday. Saudi veterinary authorities rejected the shipment, saying they had found pasteurised, a bacterium widely present in New Zealand sheep which causes pneumonia in stressed animals.
"It will no longer be possible for the live sheep slaughter trade to proceed until we can establish a clear and agreed basis for veterinary certification of sheep to Saudi Arabia," Falloon said in a statement.
Live sheep shipments, started five years ago, have provoked anger among animal welfare groups who say many die on the long sea voyage to the Middle East.
While most sheep are slaughtered in New Zealand and exported as frozen or chilled meat, Saudi consumers prefer fresh meat from animals slaughtered shortly before sale.
David Cassells, president of the Livestock Exporters' Association, said the rejected animals had met standards laid down in agreements between Wellington and Riyadh.

Irish 'beef baron' emerges from brink

DUBLIN (R) — Irish "beef baron" Larry Goodman, back from the brink after his bankers agreed to a rescue package for his business empire, began his climb to multi-millionaire status by selling off from the back of a truck.
A tough-talking and obsessively secretive businessman, this workaholic in a fiercely competitive trade fought his way up to become Europe's biggest beef processor and exporter with a one billion punt (\$1.8 billion) annual turnover.
The "beef baron" then earned two new nicknames — "Milk Sheikh" and "Sugar Daddy" — as he moved to expand his multinational food empire into a giant agri-business.
But the meteoric rise ground to a halt in August when his bankers were called in from around the world.
It was revealed he owed them 460 million punts (\$833 million) and the Irish parliament stepped in with emergency legislation on the nursing of financially ailing firms.
Goodman, who has angrily denounced his critics as "anti-private industry, anti-success, anti-effort, anti-blood, well everything," spread the blame around for his troubles.
He pointed to an outbreak of cattle madness disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which sent beef consumption in the European community plunging by 10 per cent.
He also blamed the Irish government for cancelling export insurance credit.
His stock market investments in Britain proved disastrous with hefty losses in the dairy group Unigate PLC and the commod-

Nadir media businesses show signs of instability

ANKARA (R) — Asli Nadir, Cypriot-born chairman of the beleaguered Polly Peck fruit-to-electronics group, Tuesday changed the management team at his media businesses in north Cyprus, officials at his newspaper said.
Nadir's Cypriot media holdings include four dailies, the A.N. Graphics publishing firm, the Gadedda distribution firm and the Yellow Stone printing company.
"Mehmet Ali Akpinar has been laid off as the director of A.N. Graphics, Yellow Stone and Gadedda, and replaced by Resat Akar," one newspaper official told Reuters.
Akbar was the editor-in-chief of Yeni Gun, one of four dailies owned by Nadir in the self-proclaimed "Turkish republic of north Cyprus."
Nadir's Bozkurt newspaper was closed down at the weekend because of debts of up to three billion Turkish lira (\$1.07 million) due to heavy spending.
Industry sources said more lay-offs were likely at Nadir's two other papers — the Turkish language Kibris and the English language weekly Cyprus Times.
More than 500 of some 9,000 Polly Peck employees on the divided island had already been laid off and the expatriate management team of the group's hotels sent home.
Polly Peck's holdings in north Cyprus include the Unipac cardboard factory now hit by a strike by its 150 workers, Sunzest citrus unit and four hotels including the half-finished lavish Crystal Cove where work has stopped.
A financial source working for Nadir said up to 3,000 jobs could be lost, a big number for the tiny state of 160,000 where Nadir owns a bank, family-run Nobel Airline, a tourism agency and a textile business.
Meanwhile in Turkey, 11 members of the board of directors at Nadir's Istanbul-based popular dailies Gunaydin and Tan resigned Monday.

Algerian civil servants begin two-week strike

ALGIERS (R) — Tens of thousands of Algerian civil servants began a two-week strike Tuesday to demand higher salaries and a new professional statute, their independent trade union said.
Ameur Sassour, member of the national council of the National Autonomous Union of Administrative Personnel, said the strike was observed in the provincial administrations of 45 of the country's 48 provinces.
The meteorology service, archives and court of accounts were also affected, he said.
But the country's main trade union, the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), closely tied to the ruling National Liberation Front, rejected the strike call.
A UGTA official denied claims by the newly created independent union that it represented the majority of the country's 800,000 civil servants.

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Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420 Sylvester Stallone LOCK UP 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.	Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238 Nadia Al Jundi & Farouq Al Fishawi in DEATH SQUAD Arabic Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.
Cinema NIJOM Tel: 675571 L.A. BOUNTY Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.	

Russian parliament agrees to negotiate union treaty

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian parliament voted Tuesday to take part in negotiations for a new union treaty that Mikhail Gorbachev says is needed to hold the Soviet Union together, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported.

The vote marked a small victory for Gorbachev, because it commits the largest Soviet republic to be "a full-fledged subject of the renewed USSR on the basis of a new union treaty."

But Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin cautioned the Gorbachev administration against undue haste and accused it of trying to rush the treaty signing.

Yeltsin has insisted that before he agrees to sign the union treaty, the national government agrees to hand over broad economic and political powers to the 15 Soviet republics.

The resolution passed by the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies gives Yeltsin strong leverage in negotiations with Gorbachev, because it asserts the right of each republic for self-determination and gives the central government responsibility for defence, state security and foreign policy.

The draft proposed by Gorbachev would retain broader powers for the central government, including control over transportation and energy supplies.

Yeltsin has insisted that Russia, which occupies most of the

Soviet land mass and has most of its natural resources, should control oil, natural gas, gold and diamond supplies on its own territory.

Other republics have made similar demands as they seek greater powers within their borders.

The Russian Parliament decided to appoint a commission of lawmakers to work with representatives of the central government and other republics to work on the draft union treaty. No date has been set for its completion.

Gorbachev told embattled Communist Party leaders Monday they have nothing to fear from his plan to drop the word "Socialist" from the country's name.

The proposal contains "strong expressions of the ideas and principles we connect with socialism — its humanistic, democratic nature," Gorbachev assured the party's Central Committee during a closed-door session.

The Soviet president also heads the Communist Party. The party plenum was closed to journalists, and a text of his speech was carried later by TASS.

Several republics already have dropped the words "Soviet Socialist" from their names in rejection of decades of Soviet-style communism.

Gorbachev's statement came days after hard-line members of the national legislature deman-

ded he suspend steps toward democracy as a way to hold the union together. They suggested Gorbachev be replaced if he does not act.

Western European leaders have expressed fears civil strife could send millions of Soviets fleeing across international borders.

The proposal to change the country's name "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" to "Union of Sovereign Soviet Republics" was included in a draft meant to replace the 1922 union treaty. The document outlines the relationship among the republics and between them and the central government.

"There is almost no state in the world which carries in its name a characterisation of its social make-up," Gorbachev said.

The draft union treaty never mentions the words "Socialism" or "communism." It divides powers between the central government and the republics, and says "economic development jointly."

The draft treaty would give more economic power to the republics, while retaining Kremlin control over military, foreign policy, transportation, energy and other key industries. Six republics already have said they will not sign and have demanded Kremlin endorsement of their sovereignty declarations.

All but one of the 15 Soviet

republics have declared some form of autonomy or independence. Lawmakers in the 15th — Kirgizia in Central Asia — had sovereignty on their agenda as they opened a session Monday.

"Will there be a union of strong sovereign states or a crumbling symbolic formation?" Gorbachev asked the policy-making Central Committee, leaders of the 17-million-member party that has been steadily losing members and authority.

He argued that individual republics gain an "indisputable advantage" from their membership in one of the world's most powerful states, and called on all communists to create a "strong political desire for the preservation and renewal of the union."

"What is profitable for separatists is absolutely fatal for the majority of workers," Gorbachev said.

Gorbachev also criticised the "war of laws" between the national and republic governments, which have paralysed the economy by passing conflicting legislation. He has said the treaty is needed to stave off economic collapse.

"If patches of land, divided by customs barriers, independent currencies or even border guards form in place of an all-union market, vast opportunities will be lost," he said.

Nobel winners receive awards

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — King Carl Gustaf XVI handed out gold Nobel Prize medallions and diplomas at a ceremony for the 10 laureates in medicine, literature, physics, chemistry and economics.

A stand-in for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev accepted his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway because political, economic and social turmoil in his country prevented his attendance.

Gorbachev's acceptance speech, read by envoy Anatoly Kovalev in Oslo City Hall, warned that the world had reached "a moment of truth."

At the Stockholm Concert Hall, literature prize winner Octavio Paz of Mexico received the longest ovation from the crowd of 1,800. The Swedish Academy honoured him for "impassioned writing with wide horizons, characterised by sensuous intelligence and humanistic integrity."

Before a glittering banquet in the Stockholm City Hall, Paz said: "We are at the end of ideologies. We don't know what will be the face of the future."

"But we do know that the environment is in danger," he said. "We need to rediscover the feeling that the universe is a unity and that we are a part of it."

Each of this year's prizes are worth 1 million kronor (about \$715,000). The United States, which produced eight winners this year in economics, physics and medicine, is the only country which taxes the prize money.

The laureates from the United States, Canada and Mexico shook the king's hand and bowed their heads toward him, the awards committee and the audience at the white tie ceremony.

The ceremony was broadcast live on national television and followed by a banquet in the ornate Stockholm City Hall.

Joseph E. Murray of Milford, Massachusetts, accepted the medicine prize on behalf of himself and co-winner E. Donnall Thomas of Seattle, Washington. Their pioneering work in bone marrow transplants led to a cure for most childhood leukemia.

"The prize pays tribute to the hundreds of patients now living healthy lives," said Murray, who performed the first organ transplant, with kidneys, in 1951. "We are indebted to these patients who have been unselfishly involved in this research."

Elias Corey of Cambridge, Massachusetts, recipient of the chemistry prize for discovering how to simulate organic synthesis in the laboratory, noted that "chemistry can be applied to improve the life of man and make life happier for all of us."

Corey gave credit to "the loyal, dedicated, talented colleagues and students all over the world who have been working shoulder to shoulder and mind to mind with me."

Harry M. Markowitz of New York said there was "great elation" among financial economists at the recognition of their field by this year's Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics. Markowitz and co-recipients Merton H. Miller of Chicago, Illinois and William F. Sharpe of Stanford, California received the prize for pioneering work in the theory of financial economics and how markets function.

S. African township battles claim 35 lives

THOKOZA, South Africa (R) — The South African government ordered army and police reinforcements into the Thokoza black township Tuesday after street fighting killed about 35 people and wounded 50 in less than 10 hours.

Chaos ruled in the bloodied alleys of a teeming squatter camp and a migrant workers' hostel, as each side accused the other opening fire first in the latest outbreak of Johannesburg's township wars which have killed 1,000 since August.

The migrant workers, predominantly Zulus loyal to the Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the squatters, who mainly follow Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) both alleged that white-led South African police has spearheaded the attacks.

Police denied the allegations and said they had confirmed 21 deaths since midnight — 13 in a Thokoza Hostel and eight in the tin and cardboard shacks of Phola Park squatter camp, home for some 60,000 people.

Residents counted at least 22 killed in addition to the hostel toll. Squatter leaders said they had killed five Inkatha attackers and had lost at least 17 of their own people.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok issued a statement saying substantial military and police reinforcements, backed

by police and air force helicopters, had been ordered in to halt "a rapidly deteriorating security situation."

He said the fighting was so intense that security forces on the ground were initially helpless.

He pledged the government would "take whatever steps necessary to end the township violence and will not allow any area of the country to slide into anarchy."

President F.W. de Klerk and Mandela have met several times in recent days to discuss the fighting between ANC and Inkatha loyalists which is polarising black communities around the country's industrial heart and threatens exploratory talks on creating a democratic South Africa.

The ANC accuses white extremists in the security forces of stirring up trouble in an effort to maintain white rule. The government says a simple black power struggle is to blame.

Vlok stressed the police were "impartial and apolitical" but frightened and angry people on both sides were loud in their denunciations of his men.

Themba Khoza, a youth leader of Inkatha — an organisation labelled by the ANC as a government ally — told reporters a police armoured vehicle began firing tear gas at the Zulu hostel at about two a.m. — and then "the ANC invaded."

Communist win in Serbia threatens Yugoslav unity

BELGRADE (R) — The ruling Communists' surprise election success in Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, could persuade its rival Slovenia to secede from the deeply-divided country, diplomats said Tuesday.

Unofficial early results from Sunday's election showed Serbia's populist Communist President Slobodan Milosevic set to keep his post. The Communists, now called Socialists, were leading in the ballot for a new Serbian parliament.

With more than a fifth of the votes counted, Milosevic had more than 62 per cent of the presidential ballot and the Communists led in many constituencies in the parliamentary race.

Diplomats said Serbs had shown they were wary of change and preferred Milosevic's tried and tested nationalist programme to unpredictable nationalism offered by the main opposition party, the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO).

"People are afraid of the insecurity that political and economic reform would bring and the upheavals they see in Eastern Europe," a Western diplomat said.

The elections look certain to leave Serbia and tiny Montenegro as the last bastions of Communism in Yugoslavia. The other four republics ousted the Communists this year in their first multi-party elections since World War II.

The six republics are now expected to hold talks on how to keep Yugoslavia together amid economic chaos and bitter ethnic power struggles, but diplomats said the Communist success could deal a fatal blow to the multi-ethnic federation's unity.

Slovenia and Croatia oppose moves by Serbia's Communists to keep Yugoslavia under tight central rule and say Serbia wants to control the whole of the country. Both have threatened to secede unless they are given

more independence.

"This is a clear sign for Slovenia to leave Yugoslavia," a diplomat said.

"We assume there will be talks on Yugoslavia's future but there is no apparent give on either side — from the Serbs or the Slovenes," another envoy said.

Slovenia holds an independence referendum on Dec. 23 which will not decide on immediate secession but is expected to create the basis for a break with Yugoslavia.

"If the (Serbian election result) will influence the outcome of the plebiscite because more Slovenes will vote in favour of having a sovereign state," Slovene Information Minister Stane Stanic said.

"If the outcome of the Slovenian plebiscite was 85 per cent certain before, it is now 95 per cent certain," said Slovene Leticia, personal adviser to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

Most commentators said they were surprised by the Communists' success in Serbia and put it down to fear of change, support for Milosevic's brand of nationalism, poor organisation by the opposition and lack of a real alternative programme.

The opposition listed scores of voting irregularities and said the Communists manipulated the media before the elections, but foreign observers gave the elections a clean bill of health.

"The opposition got the anti-Communist votes but it could not compete with him in the area of nationalism," a veteran Yugoslav political observer said.

Serbia is widely expected to continue a tough line in Kosovo province, where more than 50 people have been killed in riots in the last two years as the majority ethnic Albanians demanded more independence and Serbian authorities slashed its autonomy.

Police ordered to arrest Ershad

DHAKA (AP) — Police said Tuesday that they have been given orders to arrest ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

A senior police officer said he expected Ershad to be detained by Wednesday — six days after he was forced from power.

Other officials who declined to be identified said the Ershad's arrest order had not been issued

yet but was expected to be promulgated later Tuesday.

Meanwhile, one of Ershad's former cabinet ministers was placed under house arrest Tuesday, according to the senior police official who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Former Home Minister Mahmudul Hassan was confined to his home in suburban Gulshan, the official said.

Police also carried out raids on 12 homes looking for senior officials from Ershad's government who have gone into hiding.

As home minister, Mahmudul was directly in charge of the police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles, which were held responsible for the deaths of about 100 people during seven weeks of unrest that forced Ershad to resign.

Soviet Georgia abolishes autonomous region

MOSCOW (R) — The rebellious Soviet Republic of Georgia abolished the autonomy statute of a restive ethnic minority Tuesday in a move that threatens to revive fierce and deep-rooted conflicts.

Local journalists said the nationalist-dominated parliament in Georgia, whose election last month ended 70 years of Communist rule, voted to scrap the southern Ossetian autonomous region.

The Ossetian minority would henceforth be ruled directly from the Georgian capital Tbilisi, they added.

The dramatic move came a day after President Mikhail Gorbachev denounced nationalism as the greatest evil facing the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev said he would take all measures necessary to quell unrest that has killed hundreds in Georgia's neighbours Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Southern Ossetia has been the scene of repeated ethnic clashes since its creation by the Kremlin in 1922.

Last January there was bitter fighting between the Ossetians and the Georgian minority in southern Ossetia which was only quelled by the intervention of Interior Ministry troops.

Southern Ossetia, which borders Russia to the north, has a population of 98,000 of whom 66 per cent are Ossetians and 28 per cent Georgians.

Ossetian nationalists are demanding the territory's independence from Georgia and its union with northern Ossetia.

North, South Korean premiers sing of unity

SEOUL (R) — The premiers of North and South Korea sang of Korean reunification while their aides spoke of differences at the third round of high-level inter-Korean talks which opened in Seoul Tuesday.

Visiting North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-Muk and Southern counterpart Kang Young-Hoon sat side-by-side at a gala concert of 500 South Korean musicians to mark Yon's visit to Seoul, his second since September when the two premiers first met.

"Even in dreams, our wish is reunification," they sang at the finale of the concert at the Seoul Art Centre. The song, Our Wish Is Reunification, is known to every Korean schoolchild.

But while the North and South Koreans could sing together at the Art Centre, preliminary talks at the luxury-class Shilla Hotel, where the Northern delegation is staying, showed both sides were very far apart on even a basic approach to unity.

Yon and Kang held their first formal meeting Wednesday, but

it appeared the meeting would be little more than a restatement of previous positions.

North Korea has insisted that both Koreas, still technically at war from the 1950-53 Korean conflict, agree a non-aggression accord as a first step.

But a wary South Korea has said mutual recognition and increased cross-border travel and trade should be undertaken initially to foster confidence and dispel mistrust.

"We will take a forward-looking, flexible attitude tomorrow, although we will maintain our basic position," South Korean delegation spokesman Lim Dong-Won told reporters at the hotel, named for the dynasty that first united Korea in 668 A.D.

North Korean spokesman An Byong-Su said they would advance "forward-looking proposals" but gave no indication they would budge from their previous position, rejected by South Korea at the second round of talks in mid-October in Pyongyang.

Oil tycoon Armand Hammer dies at 92

LOS ANGELES (R) — Armand Hammer, the U.S. oil tycoon and philanthropist with business ties to virtually every Soviet leader since Lenin, died Monday at the age of 92, a company spokesman said.

Hammer, who was chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corp., the world's 16th largest industrial company, died at his Los Angeles home after a brief illness.

Hammer first went to the Soviet Union in 1921 as a young medical graduate to collect debts owed by the young Communist state to his family's pharmaceutical company.

But he stayed for 10 years, forging ties with Lenin and other Soviet leaders. He eventually became Moscow's favourite capitalist and a discreet envoy of U.S. presidents during East-West crises.

Hammer's business ties with the Soviet Union began with his father, Julius, a Russian immigrant doctor.

On his first trip to Moscow Hammer hoped to supplement debt collection by selling medicines to combat a typhus epidemic.

But he soon saw that food was needed more than drugs and he arranged a shipment of American wheat to trade for Soviet goods.

After Stalin came to power, Hammer's ties with the Soviet Union cooled. But he turned a handsome profit on the valuable Czarist art works which he had bought from impoverished aristocrats during his time in Moscow.

At the age of 53, he invested in Occidental Petroleum, a struggling company whose net worth was then only \$34,000.

Under Hammer's control it grew to become one of the world's most powerful conglomerates, worth \$7 billion.

Soon after purchasing Occidental in 1957, Hammer renewed his contacts with the Soviet Union. He was sent to Moscow by U.S. President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to repair the political damage of the U-2 spyplane incident.

In 1985, he claimed credit for helping to arrange the first summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

U.S. Navy planes collide off carrier, pilots missing

KEY WEST, Florida (AP) — Pilots from two navy aircraft which collided were still missing, the navy said.

The planes were practising takeoffs from the carrier USS Lexington when they collided over the Gulf of Mexico.

The two TA-1 Skyhawk aircraft apparently collided in the air at 1:10 p.m. (2110 GMT) about 85 miles (110 kilometres) northwest of Key West, said Lt. Cmdr. Ray Kempisty, spokesman for naval education and training in Pensacola, where the carrier is based.

The coast guard joined the crew of the Lexington in searching for the pilots.

Each of the single-engine jets carried one occupant, the navy said.

At the time of the crash, the weather was fair except for a few low-lying clouds and moderate winds of about 11 to 16 mph (18 to 26 kph), said the National Weather Service in Key West. "I don't think it would have an effect on the visibility," Meteorologist Peter Mohlin said.

The TA-4s, built by McDonnell Douglas Corp., are capable of carrying 10,000 pounds (4,500 kilograms) of ammunition and can travel at a top speed of

675 mph (1,086 kph), according to Jane's All The World's Aircraft, an authoritative annual directory.

The Lexington, a battle-scarred veteran of World War II, is the navy's oldest carrier at 17 years and the only one used exclusively for training naval aviators.

On Oct. 29, 1989, five people were killed when a T-2 Buckeye trainer from Meridian, Mississippi, naval air station crashed into the ship's control island and cartwheeled across the flight deck in a fireball.

The student pilot, ensign Steven Pontell, 23, of Columbia, Maryland, was making his first attempt to land on a carrier. Navy safety investigators were unable to pinpoint a cause for the crash, concluding that pilot error or a throttle malfunction may have been to blame.

The Lexington survived hits from a torpedo and kamikaze plane during World War II. It earned the nickname Blue Ghost because of its blue-gray paint job and repeated reports by Japanese propagandists "Tokyo Rose" that it had been sunk.

The ship is scheduled to be decommissioned next November and efforts have begun to preserve it as a museum.

Tyminski unaware of ban, plans to leave Poland

WARSAW (R) — Defeated presidential challenger Stanislaw Tyminski said Tuesday he was unaware of a prosecutor's order barring him from leaving Poland, and planned to fly out of the country Wednesday.

Tyminski, under investigation for alleged slander against the prime minister, confirmed that he had received a summons to appear for questioning on Dec. 17 but said he was not aware of being banned from leaving Poland in the meantime.

"I hope it will be no obstacle to my departure from Poland tomorrow morning," he said. A public prosecutor's statement issued on Monday made clear that emigre millionaire Tyminski, crushed by Lech Walesa in Sunday's presidential election, could not leave the country before being questioned about the alleged slander.

"I don't know anything about this officially," Tyminski said. The investigation against him began last month after he accused Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki of betraying the country by selling its best companies to foreigners at knock-down prices.

Tyminski told a news conference he stood by what he said about Mazowiecki.

"I do not regret what I said... during that campaign and I'm prepared to take all consequences including jail if that is what the prosecutors or judges decide in the course of the trial," he said.

The charges against Tyminski under article 270 of Poland's penal code carry a jail term from six months to eight years.

Tyminski later said that he would respect any order by the authorities barring him from leaving, but repeated that he had not received such an order yet.

"If the prosecutor's office objects to my departure from Poland, I will not leave. I would like to respect the law whatever it is," he said.

"I am prepared to offer \$100,000 surety. I will be back on Dec. 17 to appear at the prosecutor's office in Nowy Sacz."

Tyminski said he and his Peruvian wife Graciela had tickets to Canada via London Wednesday. He intended to spend three days with his three young children and then return to Poland.

"I have purchased tickets for my wife and myself and I intend to show at the airport tomorrow to take the plane to London," he said.

Tyminski said he also needed time in Canada to edit video tapes shot by his own television crew of the November election meeting where he first made his accusation against Mazowiecki.

"These tapes are out of the country and I want to leave for three days to edit them because there are editing problems in Poland," he said.

Tyminski said Sunday that the election was "rigged by intimidation" and that he would file a protest. But Tuesday he said he now had no such plans.

"I have no grounds at this time to protest anything, no legal grounds," he said.

"If my voters give me no legal grounds to protest, I will not protest," he added.

Tyminski, unknown in Poland until the campaign started in October, threw the country into political turmoil with his shock challenge.

He posited Solidarity Premier Mazowiecki into a humiliating

third place in the first round on Nov. 25, but was stopped in his tracks by Walesa's allegations that his campaign was backed by ex-Communists and secret police.

Jacek Woloszynski, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office in Nowy Sacz, said in reply to a question that there were ways of stopping Tyminski from leaving the country.

He refused to elaborate and could not confirm that Tyminski had been told he was not allowed to leave.

Tyminski said the law he was charged under, dating from 1932, was a Stalinist weapon that had not been used in Poland since the Communists introduced martial law to stamp out the Solidarity opposition in the early 1980s.

He said he had telephoned a lawyer this morning to ask for advice.

Tyminski was calm and smiling at the news conference, saying jokingly that he had found the summons in a big pile of election mail.

"I'm getting many letters and it's good I was able to pick it up," he said.

Composer completes Mozart's unfinished requiem

TOKYO (AP) — An Austrian group has chosen a Japanese composer's arrangement of a requiem left unfinished by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to be performed at a concert next year marking the 200th anniversary of the composer's death, it was announced Tuesday.

The international Stiftung Mozarteum, an organisation devoted to Mozart research, chose Shigeaki Saegusa's "symphonic concerto for violin, viola, cello and orchestra," to be performed on Dec. 5, 1991, the anniversary date.

Saegusa's composition is a completed version of Mozart's unfinished "requiem mass." For unknown reasons, Mozart was unable to complete the piece he was commissioned to write in the summer of 1791. One of his students, Franz Xaver Sussmayr, completed a version of the work after Mozart died later that year.

"Sussmayr's version was written in a style too 'romantic' to suit Mozart's composition. ...The Stiftung Mozarteum asked me to write my own version," Saegusa said. "It would be impossible to write the composition just as Mozart would have, but I tried to return to his state of mind," he said. Saegusa, one of Japan's foremost composers of classical music, said his composition would be recorded in May and released next August.

U.S. approves new contraceptive

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. government agency Monday approved the first major new contraceptive in the United States in three decades — an implant that protects women against pregnancy for up to five years.

The device, called Norplant, consists of six matchstick-sized silicone rubber capsules containing a hormone that is released slowly over time. The capsules are implanted in the upper arm of a woman in a minor surgical procedure that requires only local anaesthesia. Fertility is restored when the capsules are removed. The device is more than 99 per cent effective, meaning that for every 100 women who use it, at most one will become pregnant, says the New York-based Population Council, which developed Norplant. It will be marketed by Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories of Philadelphia.

The device has been approved in 16 countries, where half a million women have used it, according to the council. Many family planning experts consider Norplant to be the biggest advance in birth control since oral contraceptives and the intrauterine device, or IUD, were approved in the early 1960s. Norplant contains nothing new. The hormone, a synthetic progesterone, has been ingested safely for years, council officials say. Wyeth-Ayerst has not released price information for the product, approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

\$83,000 stolen in Czech casino hold-up

PRAGUE (R) — Four masked men held up a casino in western Czechoslovakia early Monday and made off with \$83,000, the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) reported. The raid on the casino in the Continental Hotel in Pizen took place soon after 1 a.m. (midnight GMT), the agency said.

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